

# Cultural Crossroads



## Faith Covenant Church

Adult Discipleship

Spring 2024

## Cultural Crossroads

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ~Romans 12:2

# Lesson Plan

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Sunday, April 28, 2024	Sexual Crossroad
2	Sunday, May 12, 2024	Addiction Crossroad
3	Sunday, May 19, 2024	Moral Crossroad
4	Sunday, May 26, 2024	Eternal Crossroad

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### **Introduction**

Culture has shifted to the point where right and wrong are no longer measured by universal truth, but by popular opinion. The purpose of our study here is to find a scriptural perspective on the issues of our society and inspire us to take the crises of society to the infallible Word of God. The challenge for us is how do we respond to the rapidly changing culture we live in? Do we fall into the us versus them attitude or remember that Christianity was born into a culture of opposition over 2000 years ago? Understanding that Jesus is as alive today as He was then, do we retreat or stand on His eternal truth? Some of the issues we will investigate may seem difficult, or even controversial, but through the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the discussion of the saints, we will work to come to the scriptural answers, and how we should respond, by building bridges and not walls, to the issues that have our culture at a crossroads. Though difficult conversations lay ahead over the next 4 weeks, we should be excited to hear and learn from the differing views of the generational, political, and economic mosaic that makes up the church of Jesus. This is a safe space to share, without fear of judgement, that we all may grow, not just in knowledge, but compassion and love for other disciples of our Lord Christ Jesus.

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### Lesson 1

#### Sexual Crossroad

The opposite of homosexuality isn't heterosexuality; it's sexual purity. Having same-sex attraction is a temptation—only a sin when it's acted upon. People with same-sex attraction are tempted mightily by the devil in the area of their weakness just as people who struggle to control their temper are tempted to lash out either physically or verbally when under temptation. We are all tempted in different ways. Sexual purity means sex only under God's guidelines: between a man and a woman within marriage. Heterosexual people can violate sexual purity also. God asks us to be sexually pure.

#### **Why is homosexuality a sin, if 2 people love each other?**

**Read Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Timothy 1:8-11**

1. Why would God feel the way He does about homosexuality? Use any scripture to answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does scripture say we should address sin with others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is keeping you from having meaningful conversations with the homosexual community?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Is abortion about women's health?**

**Read Exodus 20:13, Job 33:1-7, Psalm 100:3, 139:13-16, Proverbs 6:16-19, Galatians 1:15**

4. Why is abortion an affront to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. When does life begin? Use any scripture to support your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How might you get involved in the defense of the unborn? What is keeping you from it?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### Lesson 1

#### Sexual Crossroad

##### How do we handle gender identity (Transgender)?

Read Genesis 1:26-28, Deuteronomy 22:5, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 11:11-12

7. Who created mankind? Why did He create them? How many genders did He create?

8. How does societal culture view gender identity? What is the age-appropriate time to discuss this with children?

9. How can you discuss gender identity with someone who is confused?

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

##### What is the problem with sex outside of marriage?

Read Genesis 2:24, Exodus 22:16-17, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3, 8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, Hebrews 13:4

10. Is it wrong for a couple to live together before marriage? Use scripture to support your answer. What should a couple do who are living like this?

11. How does adultery or polygamy go against God's plan for marriage? Why is this important?

12. What encouragement can you give to someone not married, but tempted by lust?

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: How will you act as light to a dark world this week?

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### Lesson 2

#### Addiction Crossroad

Last week we began our cultural crossroads study by talking about the sexual crisis in our culture. This morning, we will be looking at just a few of the addictions that are at crisis point for our society. We will be discussing the addictions of drugs & alcohol, phones & social media, pornography, and gambling.

#### What problems do drugs & alcohol cause?

**Read Proverbs 20:1, 21:17, 23:19-21, 29-35, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:15-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8, 1 Peter 5:8**

1. Is drinking alcohol a sin? Why or why not? Use scripture to answer.

2. Drug use is not directly condemned in scripture; does that mean it is ok to use drugs, even marijuana, which is now legal in Ohio? Use any scripture to support your answer.

3. What can you do to help someone who may be struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### How do our phones & social media cause issues?

**Read Genesis 11:1-8, Proverbs 18:1-8, 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:31, Colossians 1:15-20, 3:23**

4. How might the use of phones, and social media become an addiction?

5. How does social media addiction disrupt Christian relationships?

6. One of the most radical things we can do as Christians right now is face-to-face communication, who do you need to meet with? How will you make that happen this week?

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### Lesson 2

#### Addiction Crossroad

##### Why is pornography addicting?

**Read Proverbs 6:25-28, 2 Samuel 11:1-27, Matthew 5:27-28, James 1:14-15, 1 John 2:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

7. How does pornography hurt people/ Christians?

8. How do secular approaches to breaking pornography addiction differ from Christian approaches?

9. How might a person tempted by pornography fight this struggle? Use scripture to answer.

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### What is wrong with gambling if I can afford it?

**Read Proverbs 13:11, Matthew 6:19-24, 1 Timothy 6:10, Hebrews 13:5**

10. What is the definition of gambling? What is the appeal of gambling to Christians?

11. Is it appropriate for a Christian to gamble in any form? Use scripture to answer.

12. How can you explain the dangers of gambling to someone?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge: How will you seek to honor God, and not idols this week?**

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### Lesson 3

#### Moral Crossroad

We have discussed sexual and addiction crossroads over the past two weeks, and today we are going to get into the moral crossroad our culture is currently at. We are going to be digging into the issues of racism, divorce, tattoos, and the hot button issue of politics.

#### **Why is racism still a problem in modern society?**

**Read Genesis 1:26-27, 1 Samuel 16:7, John 7:24, Acts 17:26, Romans 2:11, 10:12, 1 Corinthians 12:13, James 2:1-9, Revelation 7:9**

1. How would you define racism? How does your definition differ from what scripture says should be true of all people?

2. What responsibility do people of faith have to work to correct the sin of racism?

3. How would taking a stand against racism take you out of your comfort zone? Will you take that stand?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **What is wrong with divorce?**

**Read Malachi 2:10-16, Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:1-12, Mark 10:2-12**

4. How does scripture's teaching on divorce challenge societal norms around marriage and divorce?

5. How can we uphold the sanctity of marriage in a culture with differing views on commitment and divorce?

6. What hope would you offer a wife, or husband, who is disappointed in their spouse, and is considering divorce?

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### Lesson 3

#### Moral Crossroad

##### Are tattoos a sin?

**Read Leviticus 19:28, Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, 1 Peter 3:3-4**

7. Why Have Christians Often Seen Tattoos as Sinful?

8. Do you know any positive reasons for tattoos? Is there a line that should not be crossed?

9. What advice would you give to someone considering getting tattooed?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### Should politics control our faith?

**Read Romans 13:1-7, Mark 12:13-17, 1 Peter 2:9-23, Hebrews 13:7, Deuteronomy 1:9-18**

10. What mistakes do Christians make today regarding politics?

11. What should our approach towards politics be?

12. How does your faith inform your actions & attitudes towards those who don't vote like you do?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge: Who will you share the good news of God's power with this week?**

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### Lesson 4

#### Eternal Crossroad

Over the past three weeks we have discussed the sexual, addiction, and moral crossroads that we find ourselves at currently, as a church, and culture. This morning we will look into the future, eternal crossroad our society is facing. We will talk about what happens after believers die, suicide, Hell, and we will finish our study with eternal Heaven.

#### **What happens after a believer's death?**

**Read Luke 16:19-31, 23:42-43, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Philippians 1:20-23, Ecclesiastes 12:7**

1. When a believer dies does their spirit remain on Earth? How do you know?
2. When a believer dies, do they become angels? Will they look down on loved ones? Use scripture to support your answer.
3. What causes you fear about dying? How can you overcome this fear?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Is suicide an unforgivable sin?**

**Read Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 30:11-20, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20, Acts 17:24-26**

4. Why is suicide a sin? (Use any scripture to answer.) Is it unforgivable? Why or why not?
5. Is a Christian's salvation dependent on repentance? Use scripture to support your answer.
6. If you know someone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide, or depression, what is keeping you from reaching out to them? Why should you reach out to them?

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### Lesson 4

#### Eternal Crossroad

##### Is Hell real?

**Read Isaiah 47:12-14, Daniel 12:2, Matthew 8:12, 13:50, Luke 16:19-31, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Jude 1:13, Revelation 14:9-11**

7. What is Hell? What is it like according to scripture?

8. Who will be in Hell, according to scripture? Why would a “loving God” send people to Hell?

9. Why is it important for Christians to know about the reality of Hell?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### What will eternal Heaven be like?

**Read Revelation 4:1-11, 21:1-27, 22:1-5, Matthew 6:19-20, John 14:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

10. What will Heaven look like, according to scripture?

11. Who will be in Heaven for eternity, and what will they be doing according to scripture?

12. What are you looking forward to most about your eternal home in Heaven?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge: How will you store up treasure in Heaven?**