



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

Made / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

BOTTOM LINE

Others weren't made to be objects.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that sex and sexuality is more than just something you do; it's the way you view others, too.

SCRIPTURE

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14 NIV).

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28 NIV).

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered how certain things are made? Once you learn how something is made, you understand it better.

TENSION

Over the next few weeks, we're talking about sex!

I'm going to ask you to do just a couple of things tonight and throughout this series:

1. Relax.
2. Don't assume you know what we're going to say.

Talking about sex here is almost like an argument, and there are two different sides.

1. Adults make it seem like the worst sin you could commit.
2. Culture makes it seem like the most casual thing ever.

Here are two things you need to know: God made sex, and God made you.

TRUTH

We're going to look at a passage of Scripture in *Matthew* from one of the most popular speeches Jesus ever gave, called "The Sermon on the Mount."

This particular day, Jesus talked about how people should live and treat each other.

Jesus was flipping the script on the way things had been viewed previously.

People in the crowd would have been familiar with the Ten Commandments. They knew this rule: Don't have sex with somebody else's husband or wife. (Matthew 5:27 NIV).

But Jesus added something that had to do with more than JUST sex. (Matthew 5:27-28 NIV)



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TEACHING OUTLINE

Jesus added what we look at and what we think about to the equation. He expanded the definition of what sex is.

Why would Jesus bring up the issue of our hearts and what we think about when talking about a behavioral decision like sex? Because He cares about our hearts!

Jesus focused on women especially in this verse because they lived in a culture that treated women as property—as objects.

Sex doesn't start with our behavior. It starts with the value we see in each other.

Others weren't made to be objects. Objects are to be used. People are to be valued.

Because we're fearfully and wonderfully made, even our thoughts about other people should reflect that idea. (Psalm 139:14 NIV)

APPLICATION

There's a great question to ask yourself when it comes to anything sex-related: *"Am I treating them like a product or a person?" Will this make them an object in my mind or honor them?*

When you treat someone like an object or a product, it's all about **you** and what **you** want. When you value, it's all about the **other person** and what's best for **their** future.

LANDING

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. So is everybody else. So view each other as valuable, not as objects.

INTERACTIVE

This Interactive happens during the Truth. You'll need:

- 4 Images assembled into a slide show (included in the Large Group folder for this week).



TEACHING SCRIPT

Made / Week 1

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BOTTOM LINE

OTHERS WEREN'T MADE TO BE OBJECTS.

INTRODUCTION

2.5 MINUTES

Have you ever wondered how certain things are made?

Maybe you've watched a movie with incredible special effects and wondered how in the world they made it. The special effects looked so realistic, you couldn't help but wonder what they did to create . . .

- Cars flipping.
- Things blowing up.
- Fighting sequences.
- Alien invasions.
- Catastrophic natural disasters.

Or maybe you've wondered that about a food you love. Like chocolate. If I knew how to make chocolate, I'd be the happiest person in the world. Or maybe it's your favorite pizza. All you want is to know what they did to make the dough taste so good, so you can make it at home.

Something else I'd love to know how it's made? A jet pack! Why? Why not?!

On the other hand, there are other things I'm not super-excited to learn how they are made. Things like . . .

- Cheese. I love to eat it. But I don't want to know anything else about it.
- Sandals. I've never lost sleep wondering how they were made.
- Roads. I'm so glad we all have roads to drive on. They get us where we need to go. But I'm not necessarily pumped up about the idea of learning the roadway creation process.

Maybe your list of things looks different. But no matter what you're curious about, one thing is typically true (although not always):

Once you learn how something is made, you understand it better.

Let's say you go to a car plant to find out how cars are made, or to a newspaper plant to find out how the local paper is created. Even if you don't have the time of your life or apply for a summer job at one of these places, you still probably pay a little extra attention the next time you see a car passing by or notice a newspaper on the ground. You just give it a little extra focus, because you understand more about how it was made.

For the next few weeks we're going to talk about this idea of *made*. And our goal is for you to know a little bit more about this idea so that you can better understand it and how it relates to your life. So for the next four weeks we'll be talking about . . .

How babies are made!

I'm kidding.

Sort of.

TENSION

4.5 MINUTES

Hopefully you already know the basics of how babies are made. If not, this may be a bit of a surprise. But basically . . .

We're talking about sex!

Now, I'm not stupid, so I know that after hearing this . . .

- A BUNCH of you want to crawl under your seat and hide. You're like, "Really? Do we *have* to talk about this right now?"
- A FEW of you are like, "Finally! Something to talk about in church that's *actually* interesting!"
- SOME of you are like, "Gross! I don't want to hear some adult talk to me about sex in church." (If that's you, don't worry; YOU get to talk about it in small group, too!)

I could be wrong, but I assume most of you already know *something* about this topic because you've been educated by . . .

- A teacher.
- A friend.
- A parent or older sibling.
- A movie or song.
- The Internet.
- Personal experience.

So let's not act like I just brought up sex and that it's a topic none of you have ever thought about, talked about, or heard about.

Still, it just feels weird to talk about it in church, right? I get it. After all, isn't church the place where people tell you how wrong and evil it is? Isn't this the place where you hear about ALL the things you should stay far away from—sex being near the top of that list?

If you feel that way, I get it. But as a favor to me, I'm going to ask you to do just a couple of things tonight and throughout this series:

1. **Relax.** This conversation about sex is going to be different than you think. And it's not because it's going to be super-graphic, judgmental, or awkward. It's just going to be different. So everybody just take a deep breath!
2. **Don't assume that you know what we're going to say.** Just track with us and listen. Please. That's all we're asking. We promise we're not going try to make people feel ashamed or grossed out. **We just want to talk about something that is already being talked about in almost every other area of your life.** Why shouldn't the church get a chance to be in that conversation as well?

With that being said, I still get that the idea that talking about sex in church is weird. In fact, maybe you put up your guard as soon as I mentioned the word because it's so confusing to talk about, especially if you grew up in church or in a Christian school. It's like an argument, and there are two different sides.

- On one hand, many adults make it seem like sex is the worst sin you could ever commit.
- Culture, on the other hand, makes it seem like sex is the most casual thing ever. Watch one comedy movie or listen to one hip-hop song and it's like, "This isn't even a big deal."

How can one topic have such extreme and opposite viewpoints?

We'll talk a lot about that throughout this series. But to start out today, I simply want to make two points:

1. **God made sex.** He invented it. So if you've ever wanted to have sex, or if you are curious about sex, God's not mad at you or ashamed of you. He understands hormones. (Seriously. He made them, so He gets it.)
2. **God made you.** Maybe that seems pretty basic and something you already know. But this is something we're going to talk about a lot in this series because the decisions you make when it comes to sex are almost always connected to how *you* see *you*. That's why we're starting with this truth: "God made you." In fact, Scripture says it this way:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14 NIV).

Don't skip over this. **God did a good job when He made you. And He also did a good job when He invented sex.**

Which sounds nice, but that idea doesn't make the topic any less awkward or confusing, does it? And what do those two ideas have to do with each other?

That's where we are going to spend the rest of our time today.

TRUTH

5.5 MINUTES + INTERACTIVE

We're going to look at a passage of Scripture in *Matthew* from one of the most popular speeches Jesus ever gave, called "The Sermon on the Mount."

At the time Jesus gave this message, He was starting to gain some popularity. He was teaching some pretty bold, challenging, and confusing things. But more than that, people were finding out that Jesus could heal people. So you can imagine the kinds of crowds that showed up when Jesus came to town.

So everywhere Jesus went, crowds followed. And this particular day, Jesus sits down on the side of a hill and starts teaching. He talked about how people should live and treat each other. And like He did with just about anything, Jesus was flipping the script on the way things had been viewed previously. He kept saying things like "You've *heard it said* . . . *but I say* . . ." In other words, "I know what you've always been taught about this, but I'm about to throw something new your way."

And this is what Jesus said about sex:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'" (Matthew 5:27 NIV).

The first part of that verse was important. "You have heard it said," Jesus starts. People in the crowd would have been familiar with the Ten Commandments. So they would know commandment #7: "You shall *not* commit adultery." Meaning, don't have sex with somebody else's husband or wife.

Got it. Check.

But then Jesus adds something. And when He said what He said next, you better believe He shook things up! I imagine some people were like, "I walked all the way out here to get my shoulder healed . . . I didn't show up to hear the *adultery* speech!"

What Jesus added had to do with more than JUST sex. He said:

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart**" (Matthew 5:27-28 NIV, emphasis added).*

This was different.

- To just say, “Don’t commit adultery,” is saying, “Don’t have sex before you’re supposed to with someone you’re not supposed to.” That’s all about our behavior, actions, and choices—things we are doing on the outside.
- But then Jesus added what we look at and what we think about to the equation. In other words, **Jesus expanded the definition of what sex is.**



INTERACTIVE

In other words, up to this point most people had a limited view of sex. Sex was an act, a behavior, and nothing more. But the problem is that there’s more to it than that.

It’s kind of like this.

[Show Interactive Image 1 found in your Large Group folder.]

It’s part of a picture, but you can’t see the whole thing. You’re missing the bigger picture because you’re so focused on one part of it.

But.

[Show Interactive Image 2 found in your Large Group folder.]

The more you step back and view all aspects of the image . . .

[Show Interactive Image 3 found in your Large Group folder.]

The better you’ll be able to see what’s really going on.

[Show Interactive Image 4 found in your Large Group folder.]

You see? And it’s the same way with sex. When we see it only as an act or a behavior, and leave out the thoughts we think and the things we look at, we’re missing something.

Now, why would Jesus bring up the issue of our hearts and what we think about when talking about a behavioral decision like sex? **Because He cares about our hearts!**

This WASN’T Jesus’ way of saying, “You thought God was just mad if you have sex, and I’m telling you He’s mad at you for even thinking about it!” **No, this was Jesus’ way of saying, “How you see the world and how you see each other will either make life better or worse for both of you. And I want more for you.”**

Now, maybe you noticed that Jesus talked about looking at a “woman” lustfully. That’s pretty specific. And maybe that sounds weird, because it’s not like people don’t ever look at guys lustfully. Of course they do. But there was a reason he focused on women especially. **Because they lived in a culture that treated women as property—as objects.** Women existed for men. They could be used and discarded. Their purpose was to have children (preferably boys) so the boys could carry on the family name. Outside of that, women were instructed to stay indoors and stay out of the way.

So when Jesus says this about looking at women lustfully, He is making more than a statement about sex or thinking about sex. He’s making a statement about how you

see other people. He's addressing the way women should be viewed and treated. He's elevating their worth. So . . .

- This isn't just a sermon about avoiding sex.
- It's not just a sermon to men about their hearts.
- It's a sermon about the way people *view and treat people*.

See, sex doesn't start with our behavior. It starts with the value we see in each other. And to our culture today, it's a reminder to guys and girls alike that . . .

Others weren't made to be objects.

You know what counts as an object?

- A pack of Lunchables.
- A pair of headphones.
- A t-shirt.
- A gas station Icee.
- A math workbook.

All of those are objects or products for you to consume. They are made FOR you to use, and when you're done with them, they can be thrown away. And I think Jesus is saying, "Hey, people aren't in that category." **In other words, objects are to be used. People are to be valued.**

Now think back on the verse from *Psalms* that we mentioned earlier...

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14 NIV).

Remembering that, doesn't it make sense that Jesus would care about the way we look at each other? We're fearfully and wonderfully made, and looking at someone lustfully doesn't honor how *they* were made. It makes them an object. So OF COURSE Jesus would talk about more than just the "act" of sex. **Because we're fearfully and wonderfully made, even our thoughts about other people should reflect that idea.**

APPLICATION

1.5 MINUTES

So, what does this mean for you?

It means there's a great question to ask yourself when it comes to anything sex-related:

"Am I treating them like a product or a person?" Will this make them an object in my mind or honor them?

TEACHING SCRIPT

When you treat someone like an object or a product, it's all about **you** and what **you** want. Even if you don't mean to, you're *using* someone for your own enjoyment. When you value, it's all about **the other person** and what's best for **their** future.

For example . . .

- *When you're tempted to ask someone to text you an inappropriate picture, ask yourself, "Am I using them or valuing them?"*
- *When people are talking about someone in the locker room in an inappropriate way and you're tempted to jump in, ask yourself, "Am I talking like them about someone I'd use or someone I value?"*
- *When you're tempted to pressure your boyfriend or girlfriend to go further physically, ask yourself, "Am I using them or valuing their future?"*
- *When you're tempted to go to websites where people are allowing themselves to be objectified, ask yourself, "Am I using this person like a product or valuing them like a person?" (People in porn videos are real people, too!)*
- *When you're tempted to do something sexual with somebody as a way of keeping them interested in you and having a relationship with you, ask yourself, "Am I using them to get what I want or valuing what they want?"*

When you're tempted to think about someone only in a sexual way, ask yourself, "Am I thinking about them like an object I use or a person I value?"

LANDING

1 MINUTE

Again, this isn't about you having to stay away from something you want. God didn't make sex just to torture you. God made it specifically for the context of marriage, because marriage has the most potential for sex to be valuing and not objectifying. God places HUGE value on you and doesn't want you to be treated like an object. At the same time, He places HUGE value on others and doesn't want them to be treated as objects.

He's not out to guilt you or shame you, but to remind you that all of us were made to be more than objects. And when we start seeing one another that way, we'll begin treating one another that way. And in turn, we'll make better decisions when it comes to sex and relationships.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. So is everybody else. So view each other as valuable, not as objects.



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS
