

## Conversation Starters

- What has been one of the more challenging endeavors you have taken up?
- What helped you get through it?

## Discuss

**Our culture today makes it challenging to live a sexually pure lifestyle. In Jesus’s time, the culture was not so different. Divorce was easy and promiscuity was rampant, and women were often left for worse. Speaking directly to that, Jesus challenged people to live above the circumstances and choose purity and commitment, both in action and thought.**

*“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28 NLT)*

- How does our culture affect the way you view people of the opposite sex?
- Do you find that how you relate to others often comes from this viewpoint?
- What is your thought life like?

**Jesus’s challenge started first with our daily actions, specifically through what we expose ourselves to and how we interact with the people and world around us. When we mess up, it is often because of what we do before we even act.**

*“So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (Matthew 5:29-30 NLT)*

- Are you looking at anything that causes you or could cause you to stumble?
- Do your actions (flirting, speech, dressiness, etc.) ever say more than they should?
- Are there fences in your life that you have built to help prevent deviating from a pure life?

**How we live our lives relationally and sexually is not meant to be legalistic – to approach it with this mindset is to completely miss the heart of God. God wants a committed relationship with us and to be transformed daily to be more like Him, pure and holy. How we interact with others around us (especially marriage) should reflect that commitment and who we are before Him. We may have messed up or likely will in some way, but God out of His love remains committed to us if we approach Him humbly and give Him leadership of our lives.**

- Do you approach God with a legal mindset, rather than a relational one?
- Are there hurts or mistakes in your past that need healing?
- How is your relationship with God? Does your life reflect His values?
- How is your relationship with others? Do they reflect your relationship with God?

## Next Steps

1. Stop any action that goes against or may lead to going against Jesus’s teaching to live a sexually pure lifestyle. Is there anything you need to stop doing that is harmful to living a pure life?
2. God is capable of forgiving all sin. Know that regardless of where you have messed up, He can and will forgive if you simply ask for it. Do you know that God’s love is greater than any sin in our life? Do you need to ask him for forgiveness and healing?
3. Commit to living a sexually pure lifestyle. Choose to live above your circumstances or emotions. Take the exit sign off of your marriage relationship! Are there any “exit signs” in your relationships that need to be removed?

Consider these classes for marriage or becoming more of who God made you to be:

### **Rooted: Foundations of a Strong Marriage**

Date: Begins October 15, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: 8335 Browne Road, Charlotte, NC 28269 (Meck’s North Charlotte Campus)

Register: [www.Mecklenburg.org/classes](http://www.Mecklenburg.org/classes)

### **Made for More**

Date: Begins November 19, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: 8335 Browne Road, Charlotte, NC 28269 (Meck’s North Charlotte Campus)

Register: [www.Mecklenburg.org/classes](http://www.Mecklenburg.org/classes)

## Further Reflection

*See Matthew 5:27-37.*

## Pray

God, you have designed us in such an incredible way and to be able to know you and others around us is beautiful when it is working right. But we sometimes mess up and get it wrong and find ourselves far from you and far from others, particularly the ones closest to us. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness and your guidance to get it right. Please give us healing where we need it. Help us to take the steps, even the little ones, that we need to in order to fix our mess ups and commit to a life that reflects you to the people around us.