

Large Group Handout - Between Your Ears What Do You Believe About Pleasure?

3.17.21 Middle School

3.24.21 High School

Lesson Overview

What do you believe about *pleasure*? Is all pleasure sinful? Did God create pleasure? This week, we will look at pleasure from a Biblical perspective. Ultimately, we will see that pleasure, within God's boundaries, is always meant to point us to the Creator. When we take pleasure out of God's boundaries, there are devastating consequences. In our fallen world, we experience the redefinition, distortion, and misuse of pleasure, specifically when it comes to sex. Whether it's on social media or walking down the hallways at school, our students are being bombarded with sexual temptations, shame, guilt, mistrust - just to name a few. Tonight, Pastor JR will dive deeper with students on how they can navigate through this difficult topic.

We also have the awesome privilege of hearing from one of our own students on his personal struggle with sexual sin and his journey to freedom. Pastor JR is going to close our night by warning of the dangers of living with hidden sins, and the healing that is available when those sins are brought to light.

Leaders, there will be a response time at the end of the message, when everyone will have a chance to write down a sin they're struggling with and bring it forward, as a symbol of bringing it before God. If there is something God has laid on your heart, please lead by example here. We all have things we struggle with, and it's important for our leaders to model humility and vulnerability.

Discussion Questions

1. Did your perspective on pleasure change at all tonight? If so, how?
2. How has our world distorted/warped how we look at sex/pleasure?
 - What are some examples of this in your everyday lives?
3. Pastor JR shared these truths: 1) Pleasure is from God, 2) All pleasure is meant to point us to the creator, and 3) Pleasure gets us in trouble when taken outside of God's boundaries.
 - Which of these truths are hard for you to believe or live out? Why?
4. Read **James 1:13-15** as a group.
 - According to this passage, where does sin come from?
 - We see here that our own sinful desires tempt us to sin.
 - What are the dangers of keeping our sinful desires a secret?
 - When we expose these desires, we have the opportunity to catch it before it gives birth to sin and death in our lives.
5. What happens to sin when it is finally exposed?
 - When have you experienced this?
6. Would anyone be willing to share a sin they have kept hidden?
 - Leaders, this is a super vulnerable place for students to go, so please lead by example and be flexible with your approach.
 - For groups that have difficulty talking and getting real, take this time to pair them up and have them pray for each other, specifically praying for a sin in their life they are struggling with.