



November 7-13, 2011
Devotion Starters

Instructions:

Use these devotion starters privately, with your spouse or friend, or as a family. You choose. For families with children, there will be some suggested children's activities to go along with each day. Encourage your kids to read the Bible with you and discuss the questions for each day. Have fun with the activities and find more resources online at www.firstbaptisticard.org.

Monday, November 7:

Thought for the Day: The greatest difficulty in conversion is to win the heart to God; and the greatest difficulty after conversion is to keep the heart with God.

• **Scriptures:**

Watch over your **heart** with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.—Prov:4:23

For as he thinks in his **heart**, so is he.—Prov. 23:7

But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the **heart**, and those defile the man.

For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man. —Matt.15:18-20

1. In light of the above scripture passages, as a parent, should you aim to change the behavior or the heart? Why?
2. Is it possible to “do the right thing” but still have a spirit of rebellion?
3. Explain the following quote “You don’t have a dirty mind, you have a dirty heart.”

Tuesday, November 8:

Thought for the Day: (In Matt. 5:28) Obviously, our Lord is not talking about literal surgery; for this would not solve the problem in the heart. The eye and the hand are usually the two “culprits” when it comes to sexual sins, so they must be disciplined. Jesus said, “Deal immediately and decisively with sin! Don’t taper off—cut off!”

• **Scriptures:**

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.—Col 3:5

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable.—
1 Thess. 4:3-4

November 7-13, 2011
Devotion Starters (cont'd)

(Tuesday cont'd)

1. What is the greatest roadblock to putting an end to your “pet” sins?
2. God’s Word tells us to present our bodies as a “living sacrifice”. How can you be “living” and yet be a “sacrifice”?
3. What “disciplines” need to be in place before we can discipline our bodies? Hint:
2 Tim. 1:6-8

Wednesday, November 9:

Thought for the Day: As much as we hate to admit it, we love the things that we possess so much that letting go of them becomes nearly impossible. The thing we cherish could be material, like our first car, or relational, like our first love or a friendship that becomes dear to us. Yet there comes a time when we must let go of that which steals our affection from God. We must lay down our idols because God demands it.

• Scriptures:

You shall have no other gods before me.—Exodus 20:3

You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God—Exodus 20:4

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.—Exodus 20:17

Discussion:

1. What constitutes something being considered an “idol”?
2. Why are the idols in our life so hard to recognize?
3. How are idolatry and coveting linked?

Thursday, November 10:

Thought for the Day: When we compare love and lust, we’ll hopefully see that they are complete opposites. The world strives to equate lust with love through pornography, television and movies. God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)), so if we have a faulty perception of love, then we’ll likely have a faulty perception of God.

Definition of Lust:

(1) 1a. Pleasure, delight 2. Intense or unbridled sexual desire: lasciviousness 3. a. an intense longing: craving

(2) v to have an intense desire or need: crave

(Thursday cont'd)

Definition of Love:

(1) Strong affection for another rising out of kinship or personal ties (2) attraction based on sexual desire (3) affection and tenderness felt by lovers (4) Unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another.

The main difference between lust and love is that love is a selfless concern for another person, where lust is totally self-focused. Lust is a wholehearted craving and belief in a lie that Satan has crafted. The lie varies with the situation and the person being tempted. Lust says, "If you do this thing, you will be satisfied deeply," when the truth is that doing the thing will only lead to more hunger for whatever is to be consumed. Lust keeps growing in the person who feeds it.

Scripture:

⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NKJV

Discussion:

1. How can giving ourselves over to lust affect our relationship with God?
2. How can giving ourselves over to lust affect our relationship with our spouse?

Friday, November 11:

Thought for the Day: It is in our minds that we can commit horrible sins. We can reach into the past through our memories. We can reach into the future through our imagination. Often, the devil will get us to just think about it: *You don't have to do it. Just think about it. That is all. It doesn't have to go any further than this. You can handle it.* But after a while, thinking about it isn't enough. After a while, fantasizing about it isn't enough. We want to take it to the next level. So we start flirting. We start touching. We start tasting. We start playing with it. Then, the next thing we know, we are caught in it.

Scriptures:

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world — 1 John 2:16

Discussion:

1. How was Eve enticed by Satan? Would you consider Eve guilty of the sin of lust?
2. Once we begin to travel down the road of lust, where does that road end?
3. List the things for which we lust.

November 7-13, 2011
Devotion Starters (cont'd)

Saturday, November 12:

Thought for the Day: (From the Children's song) "Be careful little eyes what you see.
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see. For the Father up above is
looking down in love. Oh, be careful little eyes what you see."

Scripture:

"And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, 'Lie with me.'" Genesis 39:7 KJV

Discussion:

1. Do you think it is okay to lust after someone as long as you stay "physically" pure?
2. In the case of Potiphar's wife, her lust began with a look, which led to sinful thoughts, which led to sinful actions. How can we prevent this from taking place in our lives?

Sunday, November 13:

- Pray with your family for the services and activities of the day. Ask God to give you hearts and minds that can hear Him clearly.

