

FROM DREAM TO DESTINY

FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

The Purity Test

Focus God has a dream and a destiny for every person, but we must pass some character tests before we can fulfill our destiny. Great character supports great destiny.

Open What is one important characteristic you look for in a friend?

Read While Joseph was serving as a slave, Potiphar's wife repeatedly tried to seduce him. He refused every time, saying that he would be sinning against God if he gave in (Genesis 39:7–12). Keeping ourselves pure is an issue of character and is foundational to our person.

Impurity affects your family. Sin is the outward action; iniquity is the inward motivation and is handed down through generations (Deuteronomy 5:9). This means that lust in your heart affects your family even if you never “act” on it.

Impurity affects your faith. When we walk in any form of sexual immorality, we train ourselves to walk as liars and deceivers before God and others to cover our sinfulness. Impurity creates an unholy appetite in our lives.

Impurity affects your future. Like Joseph, it may seem that we have nothing to lose by giving in to sexual impurity, but nothing could be further from the truth. If you've fallen, you can be restored by confessing and repenting of your sin and returning to God's ways.

Impurity begins in the eyes. Lust is empowered by looking. It's an appetite of the flesh. Confess and repent from sin, and become accountable—especially to your spouse. Then don't look!

Talk *If you have a mixed group, consider having the men and women talk in separate rooms to encourage greater depth and vulnerability in the discussion.*

1. Sin is outward; iniquity is inward. To “transgress” is to step over a boundary. What does this tell us about “harmless” internal thoughts, fantasies, etc.?
2. Read James 1:14–16 and 1 John 1:5–6. How and why are sexual immorality and deception so closely related to one another? How does sexual immorality in our lives teach us how to resist, or stiff-arm, the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Matthew 5:28, Psalm 101:3 and Matthew 6:22–23. Why must we guard our eyes and hearts?
4. Read 1 John 2:15–16. How does sexual immorality create unholy appetites within us? Which have been most challenging for you to deal with or guard against? What are practical principles and guidelines we can create in our lives to help guard ourselves from these appetites?

- Live**
1. If you’re married, why is it critical to “struggle together”? Why can this feel so difficult? How can we encourage openness with one another?
 2. Read 1 John 1:5–10. If we’ve fallen (through sin or iniquity), what are we to do? What does God promise?

Pray In pairs, confess to God any area in which you’ve fallen or are struggling with sexual impurity. Ask Him to forgive you, cleanse you of unrighteousness, and set you free. Commit to seeking the help you need.

Thank God that He has provided us with everything we need to pass the purity test. Thank Him for the power of the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth and light. Thank Him that He is more than enough for us.