

# CONVERSATION GUIDE

## Middle-High School

**DATE:** 9/20/20

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5: 27-32

**LESSON:** On Lust & Objectification

## INTRO

*This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.*

- **Read Genesis 1:26-27.** We talk a lot about the fact that God made us in His image. People are God's image-bearers. Do you feel like you have your head wrapped around this idea? Does it make sense where you could explain it to someone else? Why or why not?
- **Read Matthew 5:27-28.** In your own words, describe what "adultery" and "lust" are. Why does Jesus say that lust is the same root heart issue as adultery?
  - Where do you deal with lust in your life? (Parents go first. Lead out in confession and honesty. Think about when you were your student's age and also how you deal with lust now.)
  - While a lustful heart deals with a lot of obvious sin issues (like pornography usage, masturbation, hooking up with people you aren't married to, affairs, etc.), it can also show up when in the entertainment we consume, the books we read and what we look at on social media. Are there less obvious sources of lust in the world that you need to avoid?
- **Read Matthew 5:29-30.** Do Jesus' words here seem extreme to you? What does that tell you about the way Jesus views lust?
  - In the sermon, we said objectification is treating a human like a sexual object instead of a human with a soul. What are some of the ways we talked about that objectifying others can cause damage and destruction?
    - Have you seen anyone you know deal with this kind of damage and pain?
  - What are practical steps you might need to take to "cut off your hand" or "cut out your eye"? (Praying when you're around that specific person who really turns you on, focusing on your same-gender friendships instead of pursuing opposite-gender friendships, not watching a certain tv show, staying away from the lustful side of social media, etc.)