

WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



8-WEEK STUDY

on the challenging teachings of Jesus
in the Sermon on the Mount

WEEK 4

Discussion Guide

**If Jesus was serious,
then we need to train our eyes**

Matthew 5:27-30

WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Matthew 5:27-30

Secondary texts from this week: Matthew 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Romans 6:19-22; 2 Timothy 1:7

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' teaching on anger in the Sermon on the Mount

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Name something your parent used to tell you that you didn't take seriously.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

It may be beneficial to split into gender specific groups for this week's discussion.

1. On Sunday, we explored a section of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus connects lust to adultery. In what ways does this comparison make sense to you? In what ways does it not make sense?
2. Have someone read Matthew 5:27-30. What does this passage tell us about the importance of our mind?
3. The world may say what goes on in your own mind can't hurt anyone. How would you respond to this? Is it harmful to engage in these types of thoughts? Why or why not?
4. What do verses 29-30 identify as Jesus' solution for lustful looking? Jesus uses very strong language. Why do you think He does that?
5. What practical steps can you take to remove the source or sources of temptation toward lustful looking?
6. What can you do to help protect your spiritual sisters or brothers in this area?
7. Read Matthew 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Romans 6:19-22 (NOTE: "members" in verse 19 refers to body parts), and 2 Timothy 1:7 out loud as a group. What do all these verses have in common? How do they practically relate to our passage today?

PRAYER

Pray for each other: Have the group pray for each other that God would make them aware of how they are viewing others and anything that is causing them to lust, and to reveal to them how to cut that thing out of their lives.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God gives you His eyes to view others.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Do the following this week: Read Philippians 4:8 every day before lunch as a way to set your mind on things of God. Develop a list of things that fit what is described in this verse.

NOTES

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