

elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

The Ten Commandments

Do not Commit Adultery

Bible Readings

Exodus 20: 1-17

Exodus 22

Hosea 4

Matthew 5



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments.
- Express the theme of the seventh commandment in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community using the Justice hierarchy.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does it mean to not commit adultery?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Have you experienced having someone be unfaithful to (in whatever way you want to define it) or betray you?

You don't need to share how they were unfaithful or betrayed you, but how did it feel and was it easy to forget it?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Matthew 5:27-32

Three considerations

1. What do you remember from the session on sexuality?

If you've forgotten, some of the points from that was that God was the inventor of sex and the orgasm; God thought marriage was a special relationship where there would be no shame between the two; and that sex is enjoyed best in the committed relationship of marriage.

The Bible often talks of Jesus as the bridegroom for the church, and uses the idea of sex to describe full emotional commitment and responsibility to each other.

Is it possible or easy to have physical sex without emotional consequences?

2. The Bible presents adultery not just as the physical act of sex outside the covenant of marriage, but often as a statement about the lack of emotional

trust and commitment, of rejecting the love of the other, of not being satisfied and wanting more than what the other is offering (Hosea).

Adultery is emotional and psychological violation (or violence) of another (usually your partner).

3. The first four commandments encompass how we love God, while the rest are on how we love others.

After honouring those that helped you grow up, and avoiding physically destroying others, why do you think how we relate to others sexually is seen as that important?

In some parts of the Bible (e.g. Exodus 22), how we deal sexually with others outside marriage is actually part of a list of how we should not mistreat others. Why do you think it is put in the same category of wrong doings?

One possible explanation is that in the times of the Bible, women didn't have the same social standing in society as men.

Generally a woman's social status was determined by her relationship with another male – either as a daughter, wife or mother. If the male she was attached to had high social status, so did she. If the man had little status, then she had little status.

(continued...)

Explore – Locate *(...continued)*

If she was not attached to a man (i.e. a widow, an orphan, or a single woman) she often became an outcast, with no voice, and no chance to be part of decent society until a man claimed a relationship with her.

If she had committed adultery, she was often shunned with no chance of getting back into society at all, with the only ways of providing for herself was to become a prostitute or slave (which pretty much guaranteed her a permanent ban for her and her daughters of ever being recognised in society).

So committing adultery also had significant negative social consequences, in addition to being judged as 'right or wrong'.

Explore – Express

Get two pieces of butcher's paper and label one "Sex in marriage" and "Sex outside of marriage".

List as many titles of movies, TV shows or books that you have seen or come across where they show or make reference to having sex on the relevant paper. E.g. if you remember a movie with characters having sex while in a marriage, write the title down on the paper with "Sex in marriage". If you can name a movie where characters have sex outside a marriage, write it down on the other paper ("Sex outside of marriage").

After writing a title down, put a happy face if the sex was judged as 'good' and a sad face if the sex was judged as 'bad'.

What do you think of the results?

A study of 14-21 males found that 28% were depressed after giving their virginity to a girl they discovered didn't care for them (reported in Psychology Today, June 2009). A 2007 study found that ending a relationship with sex had more of an impact on their mental health in an uncommitted relationship, than ending uncommitted relationships that didn't involve sex.

Do you think it is possible to have sex without emotional consequence?

Look over the three considerations given. Discuss the statement that adultery is emotional and psychological violation (or violence) of another. Why do you think someone has stated in this way?

In a marriage relationship, how easy do you think it is easy for someone to forgive their partner for adultery (considering what it might say about themselves as not being able to provide for the person that committed adultery)?

Why does today society seem to say adultery is ok?

(continued...)

Explore – Integrate

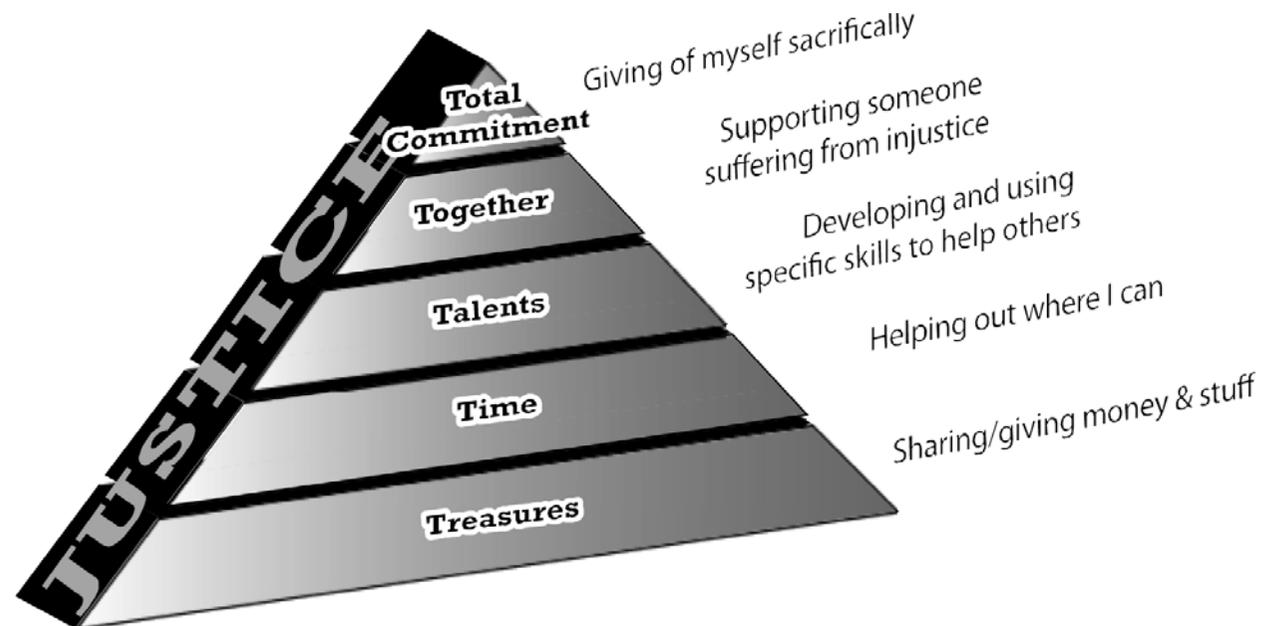
A summary of the three considerations says adultery can be:

- wanting the things that should be part of a committed relationship but without wanting to give the full commitment to the other;
- believing my committed partner is inadequate and incapable of giving me what I want without giving them an opportunity for change and so emotionally and psychologically violating the trust and commitment towards the other;
- or an act committed without regarding the social injustice and discrimination consequences on the other (usually more socially vulnerable).

Therefore the seventh commandment is saying we should not do any of the above.

If God is about total emotional commitment to others:

- What treasures can I give away to be more committed towards others?
- How can I give more of my time to show my greater commitment to another?
- What skill can I develop further to be better committed and faithful towards others, particularly the more socially vulnerable?
- Who is someone I hadn't thought of that is loved by God that I should be more committed to?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to be more like God this week?



Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to be reminded that God isn't about shallow relationships, but about intimate committed relationships with him and others.

Give thanks that God is committed to us, even when we are uncommitted, unfaithful and distracted by other interests, and that Jesus gives us an example of how to remain faithful in the midst of a world that appears to promote unfaithfulness to others.

Pray that God will help me see the people that would benefit greatly from me giving them real commitment and help them experience faithfulness and security.