



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

Life and Action
Alcohol

Bible Readings

John 2

Luke 7

1 Timothy 3

Ephesians 5



Learning Outcomes

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

- Locate the theme of alcohol in the Bible
- Express the theme or story in your own way
- Apply your learning from the story to your own life and community

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 the Bible say about alcohol?

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?

Can you think of one public celebration that gets media coverage that doesn't involve the drinking of alcohol?

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: Ephesians 5:1-21 & Luke 7:31-35

Certainly in modern democratic Western societies alcohol is seen as intimately tied to celebrations. It's hard to think of many events that don't involve it at all.

Throughout the Bible there are continuous references to wine and other fermented drinks (alcoholic drinks) as part of God's blessings to humans.

Some of the world's finest alcoholic brewing and distillation techniques and wine varieties were developed by devout God followers (e.g. monks in the Middle Ages).

Jesus' first miracle recorded in John 2 is where He turned water into wine (however there are no stories of him rocking up to parties of teenagers and repeating that trick, sorry).

In fact, when people wanted to knock Jesus they called him a drunkard (Luke 7), suggesting that he attended a few parties and didn't mind the odd drink.

As well, Jesus tells his followers to remember him every time they eat bread and drink wine, which is where we get the ritual of communion.

The Bible however warns that too much of an enjoyable thing might lead to consequences you'll regret later and has many stories of drunk people doing foolish things (as I'm sure your parents would too).

So often in order to ensure someone doesn't go too far, it was easier for them not to start (drinking alcohol) at all. Various groups in the Bible, and later various church movements and denominations adopted that policy. For example, all members of The Salvation Army freely and willingly refrain from consuming alcohol (in addition to other activities that have individual and social negative consequences).

Although there are huge health implications (for adults and young people), why do you think the Bible has a lot to say about drunkenness?

Explore – Express

Debate from a Biblical perspective: “Australian teenagers should legally be able to drink alcohol.”

Using the Bible as your main source of information, though you can consult the internet or other sources for relevant information, such as:

- 10% of Adult Australians don't drink alcohol at all [2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (AIHW 2008)]
- By the age of 14, around 90 per cent of students had tried alcohol [2002 national survey of Australian secondary school students (White & Hayman 2004)]
- Alcohol is second only to tobacco as a preventable cause of drug-related death and hospitalisation [2001]
- Alcohol accounts for 13 per cent of all deaths among 14–17-year-old Australians — it has been estimated that one Australian teenager dies and more than 60 are hospitalised each week from alcohol-related causes [2001]

Other questions you might consider:

- What would happen to society and to individuals if no one ever drank alcohol again?
- What are the positive benefits of alcohol, and are there any ways of achieving those without alcohol? Are any of those ways promised by Jesus?
- What are the ways of minimising all the negative consequences alcohol so that it can continue to be a part of a positive lifestyle?
- What have been my own personal positive/negative experiences with drinking alcohol?
- Legally, there are only certain circumstances minors (those under 18) can have and consume alcohol. What implications are there for young people that drink outside those circumstances?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

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 understand best how God wants us to view alcohol.

Give thanks for the body that God has given you.

Pray that you act with integrity regarding alcohol.