

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER

The Addicted Generation





SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2024

Theme of the Month: The Addicted Generation

SUMMARY

It's no secret that we're living in a time where society is highly consumed by three areas: Technology, Friendships and Sexuality.

The average American spends 8 hours and 30 minutes a day on their screens. Whether it be social media, video games and/or streaming services, we've made these outlets a god in our lives. If we're spending all of our time on our devices, then there's no room for God.

We've all heard the phrase "show me who your friends are and I'll show you what your future looks like". Therefore we must accept God's call to walk with the wise and part ways from the foolish.

The current generation is inundated with a sexual agenda and most young people are exposed at a young age. God gave us these desires, but if not filtered through His word and His timing, they have the ability to destroy us.

God forgives us for being addicted in these areas, but if we want true freedom, we must fight the good fight by seeking first the kingdom of God and living righteously. For the month of September, we will equip students with biblical/practical tools to fight off these addictions.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

- Just because something FEELS good, does not mean it's good for you.
- Bad company will always compromise your beliefs and personal values.
- 3 Ways Porn Can Negatively Affect Your Life (1. Porn destroys God's intention for sexual intimacy 2. Porn encourages self-gratification & lowers partner gratification 3. Porn isolates you)

Exodus 20:3 (NIV) "You shall have no other gods before me.

Proverbs 13:20 ESV Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT) 18 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.



01. Technology

SUMMARY

Although we have endless ways of being connected through technology, this is the most isolated generation in the history of mankind. That's because technology has become an idol in the lives of most people. It's worrisome because our thoughts, emotions and actions are being shaped by what we see, hear and focus our energy on. Many times these might not even be "bad things" but are pulling us away from spending time with God. We must be honest with ourselves, repent and instill healthy boundaries to spend time with God. If not, we run the risk of being shaped by society instead of God's Word.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Exodus 20:3 (NIV) "You shall have no other gods before me.

Matthew 22:37 (NIV) Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE

- Learn how your students are "connected" on their devices (Social Media/Shows/Music, etc.)
- Read Proverbs 1:1-7 & Proverbs 1: 20-33
- What stood out to you from Proverbs 1 and Why?
- How does technology hinder (stop/block) you from spending time with God? How is it affecting you?
- What practical steps can you take today to spend time in God's word?

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Worship song: Secret Place / Goodness of God (Live at Team Night) - Hillsong Worship
- What is God saying to you? Are you dedicating time to His Word and praying to receive an answer?
- Seek the guidance and help of your parents.
- Seek the guidance and help of your VSM leaders/pastors.
- Join the "Spending time with God" devotional by "Paul Marc"
<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/25138>



02. Friends

SUMMARY

“Show me who your friends are and I’ll show you what your future looks like”. This is perhaps one of the mostful truthful statements regarding friendships. We see this in Proverbs 13:20, that it matters who you’re around, because you become who you’re surrounded by. At a young age, there’s a strong influence to compromise our identity in Christ in order to be accepted by people. This is dangerous because bad company will always compromise your beliefs and personal values. Essentially, we must get to a place where living for an audience of ONE (God) is more important to us, then living for an audience of many.

KEY VERSES

Proverbs 13:20 ESV

20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

Bad company will always compromise your beliefs and personal values.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE

- Why do friendships influence us so much? What areas do our friends influence in our life?
- Read the 3 verses referenced above. What stands out?
- What do you value more in friends - quantity or quality and why?
- What if your closest friends loved Jesus with everything, what would your life look like?
- What is one step you can take for your friends to know that you’re Christian?

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Worship song: Chris Tomlin - Good Good Father
- What is God saying to you? Are you dedicating time to His Word and praying to receive an answer?
- Seek the guidance and help of your parents.
- Seek the guidance and help of your VSM leaders/pastors.
- Join the “Spending time with God” devotional by “Paul Marc”
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03. Sexuality / Porn

SUMMARY

If the Word of God is not at the forefront of a student's conception of sexuality, society will shape its agenda on them. Sexual desires are not evil, God gave us these desires. They become dangerous when we do with them as we wish and don't filter them through God's Word, His Way and his Timing. Will you be a slave to lust? Or will you offer your body as a living sacrifice, trusting that at the right time and in the right way, God will allow you to experience intimacy with the right person.

Galatians 5:13(a), 16-18 (NIV)

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NIV)

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

33 Seek the Kingdom of God[a] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Psalm 103:12 (NLT)

12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE

- How does culture/society define sexuality? What have you seen online/school, etc.?
- Read Galatians 5:13(a),16-18. What stands out?
- What does "Gratifying the desires of the flesh" mean? What are the consequences of living by gratifying the desires of the flesh?
- How have you been affected in this area?
- Invite students to confess (James 5:16) and to start a process of freedom, through prayer.
- What steps can you take to walk by the Spirit and not by the Flesh?

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Worship song: I Surrender, King of My Heart (lyrics) - Matt Crocker, Bethel Music, Steffany Gretzinger
- What is God saying to you? Are you dedicating time to His Word and praying to receive an answer?
- Seek the guidance and help of your parents.
- Seek the guidance and help of your VSM leaders/pastors.
- Join the "Spending time with God" devotional by "Paul Marc"
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