



### The Vow of Purity Week 4

- Describe a time when you or someone you know had a relationship damaged by a secret. What happened when the truth was revealed?

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

**Genesis 2:24-25 (NIV)**

*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves...and they hid from the LORD... But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

**Genesis 3:7-10 (NIV)**

- Adam and Eve apparently hid out of embarrassment or shame. Different people "hide" because of different reasons. What struggles do you have with being transparent in your relationships?
- One of Satan's weapons is the "shame game." It starts with your experiencing something deeply painful or sinful. You then connect what happened to who you are. Finally, you believe the only way to be safe is to hide. How has Satan used the "shame game" in your own life? Were you able to overcome the shame? If so, how did you overcome it?

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

**James 5:16 (NIV)**

- Describe a time when you confessed a secret or a sin to a fellow believer. How did that confession start the process of healing in your life?

*... you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die... Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.*

**Revelation 3:1-3 (NIV)**

- What is one area of your life that you are still striving for purity in? Be honest. Share with your group how they can pray for you.
- What is your most valuable take-away from the past four weeks of studying "The Vow"?

**Final thought:** If you are married, take a few minutes to pray together. Ask God to empower you to love your spouse with an authentic and transparent intimacy. Commit to confess any secret sins or shame. If you are single, commit to sharing any secret sins or shame with a close same sex friend, pastor or counselor. Pray with your group that you will all encourage each other to pursue only God's best in all areas of life.



# Group Discussion Questions

Week 4

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### For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

#### Open

- How much do you think people's view of purity is influenced by what they watch on television, see in movies or hear in music.

#### Explore

##### Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- What did Paul urge his audience to do? (4:1)
- By what authority did Paul give his instructions? (4:2)
- How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian? (4:4-5)
- How did Paul characterize the heathen? (4:5)
- When people ignore or reject God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting? (4:8)
- What command of God were the Thessalonians known for obeying? (4:9-10)
- What ambition were the Thessalonians to pursue? (4:11-12)
- What is the result of living a quiet, respected, and responsible life? (4:11-12)

#### Reflect

- How often do we need to be reminded about God's instructions for our lives?
- How would you respond to someone who says it is possible to be a good Christian while also being sexually immoral?
- How can we wrong a person through impure, sexual behavior?
- What is a holy life?
- What motivates you to live a life that is pure and holy?

#### Apply

- What are some things you can or currently do to maintain purity in all of your relationships.

#### **Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:**

Day 1: Read Genesis 3:7-10. Spend time praying about any shame you may be dealing with in your life. Pray for those you know who are dealing with shame. Ask for healing.

Day 2: Read Ephesians 5:8-14. Focus your prayer on asking God to assist you in dealing with any areas of impurity in your life. Ask for His forgiveness in these areas of your life.

Day 3: Read James 5:16. Confess to God any sins you have been holding back. Have an open and honest conversation with God regarding these sins.

Day 4: Read Revelation 3:1-3. Spend time in prayer thanking God for what he has done in your life. Thank Him for his forgiveness and strength to live a life of purity. Praise Him during this time.

Day 5: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Pray for those you know are struggling with impurity in their lives