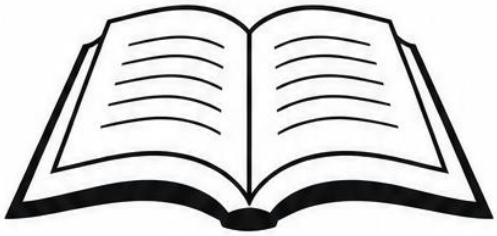
The Ten Words:

True Freedom,
True Wisdom, True Life.



Family Worship Guide

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

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Week 7: Honoring Marriage and Pursuing Purity

Scripture: Exodus 20:14 — “You shall not commit adultery.”

Central Idea: God calls us to honor marriage, pursue purity in our hearts and relationships, and treat others with love and dignity. Through Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness for our sins and learn to live according to God's good design.

Weekly Question: How can we honor God with our hearts, bodies, and relationships?

MONDAY — Where Does Adultery Begin?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:27–32

The seventh commandment says, "You shall not commit adultery." Adultery happens when someone is unfaithful to their husband or wife. Marriage is a special relationship in which a husband and wife promise to love and remain faithful to one another. God gave this commandment to protect marriage and teach us to honor others. But Jesus explains that keeping this commandment involves more than simply avoiding certain actions.

Jesus teaches that adultery begins in the heart. When we look at someone with lustful desires, treating that person in our thoughts as though they were our spouse, we have already sinned in our hearts. This reminds us that God cares not only about what we do, but also about what we think and desire. We can dishonor others through our thoughts, the images we choose to look at, and the way we treat people. Rather than seeing others as people made in God's image, we can selfishly treat them as objects for our own pleasure.

Our greatest problem is not simply that we sometimes do wrong things, but that our hearts are affected by sin. That is why we need more than rules to follow. We need God to forgive us and transform our hearts. Jesus calls us to take sin seriously, turn away from temptation, and learn to love others with pure hearts.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to examine our hearts, forgive our sinful desires, and help us see and treat others with purity and dignity.

Suggested Prayer:
Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us and teaching us how to love others. Forgive us for the times our thoughts and desires have been selfish or sinful. Please change our hearts and help us see others as people made in Your image. Teach us to love with pure hearts, just as Jesus loves us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Song: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* — Keith Green

TUESDAY — Why Does God Warn Us Against Adultery?

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 7:1-27

Have you ever touched something hot and gotten burned? Fire can be useful and good when it stays where it belongs, but it can cause terrible destruction when it gets out of control. Proverbs uses this picture to warn us about adultery: “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?” (Proverbs 6:27). God warns us against sexual immorality because he knows the harm it can bring. What may seem exciting or pleasurable at first can eventually cause great suffering.

Sexual immorality harms us because it teaches us to use our bodies and the bodies of others selfishly. It also dishonors other people. Instead of treating them as sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers who deserve love and respect, we may begin treating them as objects to satisfy our desires. Adultery also breaks trust, wounds marriages, and can tear families apart. Other forms of sexual immorality can contribute to exploitation, abuse, and suffering throughout society. Our choices affect more than ourselves.

God's commandments are not meant to keep us from enjoying what is good. They protect the good gifts he has given us. Just as loving parents warn their children about dangerous things, our heavenly Father warns us about sin because he loves us. When we honor his commands, we learn to protect ourselves, respect others, and build relationships characterized by trust, faithfulness, and love.

Prayer Focus: Thank God for his loving protection and ask him to help us make choices that honor others and strengthen our families.

Suggested Prayer:

Loving Father, thank You for giving us commandments that protect us and teach us what is good. Help us recognize the dangers of sin and make wise choices. Teach us to treat every person with dignity and respect. Protect our families and help us build relationships filled with love, trust, and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Song: *Lord, I Need You* — Matt Maher

WEDNESDAY —God Takes Sexual Sin Seriously

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:1–11

Sometimes the world around us celebrates things that God says are wrong. Movies, television shows, music, and social media may present sexual immorality as something normal, exciting, or even good. But just because something is popular does not mean it is right. In Ephesians 5, Paul reminds Christians that sexual immorality and impurity have no place among God's people. We belong to a holy God, and he calls us to live differently from the world around us.

God takes sexual sin seriously because it dishonors his good creation and harms the people he loves. Paul warns that those who continue in sexual immorality and refuse to turn from their sins will not inherit the kingdom of Christ and God. These are serious words! God is loving and merciful, but he is also holy and just. He does not ignore evil or pretend that sin does not matter. His judgment reminds us that we must never treat sin lightly.

But notice the wonderful encouragement at the end of our reading. Paul says, "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). Those who belong to Jesus are called to live as children of light. This means learning to recognize what pleases God, refusing to celebrate what he calls evil, and choosing what is good even when others around us choose differently.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help us recognize sin, take his holiness seriously, and courageously live as children of light.

Suggested Prayer:

Holy God, You are perfectly good, righteous, and just. Forgive us for the times we have treated sin as though it were not important. Help us recognize what is right and wrong according to Your Word, even when the world tells us something different. Give us courage to live as children of light and to honor You in everything we do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Song / Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* — Reginald Heber

THURSDAY — Can Jesus Forgive and Change Us?

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 1 John 1:8–9

After hearing about the seriousness of sexual sin and God's judgment, we might wonder, "What if I have already sinned? Is there any hope for me?" The wonderful news of the gospel is that Jesus Christ came to save sinners! In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul lists several kinds of sinful behavior, including adultery and sexual immorality. Then he says something amazing: "And such were some of you." Some of the Christians in Corinth had committed these very sins, but their lives had been transformed by Jesus Christ.

Paul continues, "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." Through Jesus, sinners can be forgiven, cleansed, and made new. Our past sins do not have to define our future. Jesus does not merely forgive us and leave us unchanged. He gives us a new identity and calls us to a new way of life. No sin is too shameful to bring before him in repentance.

Sometimes we try to hide our sins because we are embarrassed or afraid of what others might think. But hiding sin does not make it disappear. First John 1:9 teaches us that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us. We should bring our sins into the light by confessing them to God and, when appropriate, seeking help and prayer from trustworthy Christians. We do not have to fight temptation alone. Through Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness and find the help we need to walk in freedom.

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus for his forgiveness and ask for the courage to confess our sins, seek help, and walk in newness of life.

Suggested Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving us even though we are sinners. Thank You for dying for our sins so that we can be forgiven, cleansed, and made new. Help us never to hide our sins from You. Give us the courage to confess our sins and seek help when we need it. Change our hearts and teach us to walk in Your light. In Your precious name, amen.

Worship Song / Hymn: Pass Me Not of Gentle Savior

FRIDAY — How Can We Pursue Purity and Honor Relationships?

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:1-6

The seventh commandment teaches us more than what we must avoid. It also teaches us what we should pursue! God created marriage and sexual intimacy as good gifts to be enjoyed according to his wise design. Proverbs 5 encourages husbands and wives to rejoice in one another and remain faithful in their marriage. But whether we are married or unmarried, young or old, God calls all of us to cultivate relationships characterized by love, purity, and respect. In 1 Timothy 5, Paul teaches Christians to treat older people as fathers and mothers and younger people as brothers and sisters, with all purity. Rather than treating others selfishly, we should love and honor them as members of our own family.

How can we do this? First, we must guard our hearts by filling them with God's Word and staying away from things that tempt us to sin. This may mean being careful about what we watch, what we look at online, how we dress and behave, and the relationships we pursue. We should not wait until we are already in a dangerous situation to decide what is right. Instead, we should establish wise boundaries that help us remain faithful to God. We can also help one another by speaking honestly about temptation, praying together, and encouraging one another to make good choices.

Within our families, we should teach that sexual intimacy is neither something shameful nor something to worship. It is a good gift from a wise and loving God, intended for marriage. Those who are married should nurture their relationship through love, friendship, and faithfulness. Those who are unmarried can recognize singleness as a gift and cultivate meaningful friendships while remaining content in the Lord. Children can begin preparing for future relationships by learning to respect others, practice self-control, and develop genuine friendships. As followers of Jesus, we are called not merely to avoid what is evil, but to actively pursue what is good.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help our family guard our hearts, flee temptation, and cultivate pure, loving, and faithful relationships.

Suggested Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us for loving relationships and for giving us the good gift of marriage. Help us guard our hearts and turn away from anything that leads us into sin. Teach us to treat others with purity, kindness, and respect. Strengthen the marriages in our family and church and help those who are unmarried find contentment and joy in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Song / Hymn: *Take My Life and Let It Be* — Frances Ridley Havergal

REVIEWING THE WEEK

Gather your family at the end of the week and discuss these questions:

1. **What does the seventh commandment teach us?** Why did God give us this commandment?

2. **What did Jesus teach about adultery and the heart?** Why is it important to guard our thoughts and desires, not just our actions?

3. **How can sexual immorality hurt individuals, marriages, families, and communities?** How do God's commandments protect us from harm?

4. **Why should we be careful about what we watch, read, and look at online?** What should we do when something encourages thoughts or behaviors that dishonor God?

5. **Why does God take sexual immorality seriously?** What does his judgment teach us about his holiness and justice?

6. **What does it mean that through Jesus we can be washed, sanctified, and justified?** Why should we never be afraid to bring our sins to him?

7. **Why is it important to confess our sins rather than hide them?** Who are trustworthy people we can turn to for prayer, encouragement, and help?

8. **What are some practical ways we can guard our hearts and avoid temptation?** Are there any changes we should make in our family?

FAMILY COMMITMENT

We will honor God with our hearts, bodies, and relationships. We will guard our thoughts, turn away from temptation, and treat every person with the dignity and love they deserve as someone made in God's image. We will honor marriage as a good gift from God, cultivate pure and faithful relationships, and encourage one another to live according to his Word. When we sin, we will turn to Jesus for forgiveness and help, remembering that through his grace we can be cleansed, transformed, and made new. Together, we will seek to reflect the pure, faithful, and self-giving love of Jesus Christ in our family and in the world around us.