

# **Lesson 10**

## **A Gift from God**

### **Lesson Overview**

BIBLE LESSON: I Corinthians 3:16-17

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE Marriage is to be held in honor among all. Hebrews 13:4a

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

#### **LESSON OBJECTIVES:**

The student will:

- believe that God designed and established marriage
- understand that God desires to help marriages be strong

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: This is the first lesson on the Sixth Commandment. The focus is to help us understand that God created us and our bodies are an amazing creation. The lesson text tells us that God lives inside of us. In the Old Testament the temple that God dwelt in was a building but in the New Testament we learn that God lives in us, our body is a temple for him so we need to take care of our bodies. God also designed marriage when he created a woman for Adam and the foundation of a family was established by God. Marriage is a precious gift from God and we need to care for our bodies keeping them pure and holy.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What purposes does each part of our body have? Consider how all the parts work together. Who lives inside of us? What was the temple like in the Old Testament? How was the temple taken care of? How can we take care of our bodies? Who created the first family? Why did he create marriage? How can we honor God? How can we become selfish and use our body wrongly?

ACTIVITY 1: Circle: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10. Draw an X: 2, 4, 6, 7.

ACTIVITY 2: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 circle: a temple of God

# TEACHER PREPARATION

## Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will help you teach this somewhat sensitive material to the children in your class, recognizing they may come from very different places related to the material to be covered. Pray for wisdom to cover this important lesson well, clearly communicating what God's Word says about our bodies and how we can honor Him no matter our age or situation.

## Prayer Preparation

- Bring your personal need to the Lord in prayer.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to use you to teach them well.

## Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

## Bible Background

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The human body is an amazingly complex organism made up of elements that are commonly found in the soil of the earth because God “formed the man of dust from the ground...” (Gen 2:7a). Genesis 2:19 tells us that “out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky,...”

But when God created man, He added something that He did not give to the animals (Gen 2:7b). With the man God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul (or person). The psalmist rightly gives thanks to God “for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:14).

Man's soul is his direct connection with God, in whom we “live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). When man sinned, he lost that “life” and became a “lost and condemned creature.” When God redeemed sinners through the death and resurrection of Christ, we “were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Rom 5:10),

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit that “He abides with you and will be in you” (Jn 14:7). Paul describes that vividly to the Corinthians Christians: “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Cor 3:16). The body must be respected and treated as God's unique creation.

When we are redeemed and saved from sin, we are ready “to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8). The body, however, is not yet changed and so cannot enter heaven. The body will be changed in the resurrection on the last day (1 Cor 15:42-57). In the meantime, Paul urges Christians “by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship” (Rom 12:1). The Holy Spirit is present to sanctify us so that we will be “transformed by the renewing of your mind,

so that you may prove (discover) what he will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Even with a transformed mind and a desire to actively do God’s will, it is the “body” that does all the work. We need the arms and hands and legs to serve or practice hospitality and the mouth to speak words of grace. If we act or speak in a sinful way, the body is an instrument of sin or unrighteousness. When led by the Spirit to do the will of God, the body will be an instrument of righteousness.

Like the rest of creation, the body is designed to reproduce after its kind, to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it” (Gen 1:28). Every single fertilized cell of a newly conceived human life creates a new person created in the image of God and is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” That person inherits the traits of the parents, as well as the sin of Adam. That person is lost until redeemed by the grace of God and made a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

## Learn the New Words

*It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.*

**dwells:** to live in. The word carries the connotation of contentedness and a long-lasting situation.

**impure:** unclean

**union:** one thing made up of things that are joined together

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

### Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” I Corinthians 3:16.

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

### Review the Recent Lessons

We are learning about the Sixth Commandment today. Ask if anyone remembers the Fifth Commandment and something from last week’s lesson. The focus now shifts a little closer to home, from how we act toward other people to how we conduct and take good care of ourselves.

## TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

### Introduce the Lesson

Do you remember the lesson about young King Josiah who cleaned and rebuilt God’s temple? Many years before that King Solomon

had built a very beautiful temple for the people of Israel to worship the one true God. God made a different sort of temple to dwell in. It is the body of each believer. God lives in those who love Him.

## Read the Lesson

**READ** the opening paragraph. **ASK:** Can your body do amazing things? When you skin your knee or cut yourself, does the scratch or cut stay there forever? No, God made your bodies so they could heal. You can't do this by trying very hard, but some things can help your body heal. Washing the cut and keeping it clean with a bandage can help it get better sooner. God made our bodies heal. He made our eyes to see and our ears to hear.

Even more amazing, God Himself lives or dwells in our bodies. The Bible says our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. This means that God lives (or dwells) in us.

**Read** the second paragraph.

God lives in those who love Him. Because our bodies are a gift from God and a place where God's Holy Spirit dwells, we should use our bodies in ways that please God.

**Read** the third paragraph. **SAY:** We take care of our bodies by eating and drinking healthy things. We want to be clean in what we think, say, and do. This includes exercise and rest, avoiding dangers and risky behaviors. We need to be careful about what our ears hear and our eyes see.

**Read** the Fourth Paragraph. Our bodies also have a healthy purpose in marriage. When Adam was alone, God created the woman, Eve. God created marriage as the lifelong union of a man and woman. In marriage man and woman can love and help each other, as well as have and raise children.

Marriage is another precious gift from God. He created marriage to build families that follow and serve Him. Whether we are married or unmarried, we want to use our bodies in ways that are right and pleasing to God.

## Repeat the Memory Verse

*The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class*

*each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.*

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Do the Activities Together

#### Honor God With My Body

##### Activity 1

Circle the ways we honor God with our bodies, draw an X over ways that dishonor God.

**Activity 1**

**HONOR GOD WITH MY BODY**

Circle the ways we can honor God with our bodies.  
Draw an X across ways that dishonor God.

1. See God's beauty in the world around me
2. Be careless about what I hear
3. Husbands and wives help each other
4. Impure thoughts
5. Husbands and wives hurt each other
6. Be careful what my eyes see
7. Impure words
8. Eat healthy food
9. Husbands and wives love each other
10. Exercise and rest

**PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, Please forgive me when my thoughts, desires, words, or actions are impure. Make me pure and holy by Your grace. Amen.

#### God Lives in Me

##### Activity 2

Add the missing words from the memory verse. Circle the words that tell what you are.

**Activity 2**

**GOD LIVES IN ME**

Add the missing words from your memory verse. Circle the words that tell what you are.

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Where is this verse found in the Bible? 1 Corinthians 3:16

## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

## **Additional Teaching Options**

**Hymns and Songs:**

**Additional activities for a multi-age class:**