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1.5 Page Study

Understanding Ourselves, Understanding God

Consequences of Disobedience

(This is the tenth in a series of studies that explores the different aspects of Understanding Ourselves and Understanding God.)

This study forces people to come to grips with reality and consequences of doing the wrong thing in contrast to the benefits of living a right life. Allow the discussion to flow freely and ask additional questions, at your discretion, of the feedback you will receive. Help those in the study to see the difference.

Brainstorm as a group by asking: “Does it really pay off to live a right life and do the right thing?” “How do you know?”

Say: “We’re going to read a few sections of scripture together. After each passage is read, let’s make a list of what happens when we go our own way and do our own thing apart from obedience to God, what we know to be His will and what His Word says. Let’s also look at the consequences to our lives?”

(Suggestion: Have different people in your group read different passages and discuss. Discuss one passage at a time. For visibility and emphasis, write down the feedback on a chalkboard, large pad of paper on an easel or a regular sheet of paper using a thick marker).

**The text of each passage is at the end of this lesson for easy reference.*

Psalms 1:4-6

1 John 2:15-16

Hebrews 12:15

Galatians 5:19-21

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Proverbs 13:1-6,10,17-18-23

James 3:14-16

1 Peter 4:3-5

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Ask: “Emotionally what happens in our lives when we are not living a right life?”

Here is a list of items to list if they are not mentioned:

Loss of purpose

Meaninglessness

Not satisfied

Empty in heart

Discontentment

Loneliness

We lack balance in our lives

We are easily distracted by the world

We are tempted to give up on the Christian life



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Ask: “What specific area in your life do you feel you want to let God have full control of?”

(Suggestion: Let people freely share but do not put anyone on the spot. You could break people into groups of two or three if that would make people feel more comfortable as they answer this question.)

Say: “What are the benefits to living a right life? Does it really pay off? We’re going to discuss this next time in the second part of this lesson.”

Scripture References

Psalms 1:4-6

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 John 2:15

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Hebrews 12:15

15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Galatians 5:19-21

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Proverbs 13:1-6,10,17-23

1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

2 From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence.

3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

5 The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace.

6 Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.



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- 10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
- 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing.
- 18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.
- 19 A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.
- 20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.
- 21 Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.
- 22 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.
- 23 A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.

James 3:14-16

- 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.
- 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.
- 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

1 Peter 4:3-5

- 3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.
- 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.
- 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.
- 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,
- 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--
- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.