

1. Motivate

How is marriage commonly portrayed in the media?

A video introduction is available. View at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_2valhndm

2. Transition

The concept of marriage as God intended is not common to our culture.

- God intended one man, one woman for life.
- Physical intimacy is reserved for one man and woman within the covenant of marriage.

3. Bible Study

3.1 Honor Marriage

Listen for Jesus' clarification.

Exodus 20:14 (NIV) "You shall not commit adultery. Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

What are some concerns at the heart of the seventh commandment?

Why was obedience to this command critical to Israel's future?

What are the consequences when trust is broken in a relationship?

According to Jesus, how does adultery start?

Why are people willing to harbor and tolerate lust in their hearts?

When does looking at someone become inappropriate?

What is wrong with the argument, "It's OK to look as long as you don't touch"?

Yielding to the temptation of lust can become the precursor to involvement in the sin of adultery. What are some ways believers can guard their hearts to withstand the progressive invitations of sin?

3.2 Guard Your Thoughts

Listen for actions that lead to temptation.

2 Samuel 11:1-3a (NIV) In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her.

What words and phrases in verse 1 define the setting for this incident in David’s life.

What happened one night when David couldn’t sleep?

In what way did David use his authority inappropriately?

Agree or disagree? ... "To be tempted is to sin"

Agree	Disagree

David was tempted ... why should we anticipate temptations?

What are some ways we can avoid even some temptations?

How can we guard our thoughts with faithfulness and purity?

3.3 Honor the Commitments of Others

Listen for David's tragic decision.

2 Samuel 1:3b – 5 (NIV) The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"
4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

What information did David's servant share in identifying the woman?

Why should that information have caused David to reconsider what seemed to be in his mind?

At what points did David have the opportunity to bail out?
Why do you think he persisted at each juncture?

What can these passages teach us about the progression of sin in how we deal with other people?

How can we anticipate temptations and stop ourselves from succumbing to temptations?

