

02 The Authority of God & Scripture

PARENT GUIDE

BIG IDEA:

There's no point inviting people to follow a Christian sexual ethic if they're not clear on who their authority is. As Christians, our authority is God. And one significant way God has revealed his authority to us is through the Bible. This lesson will drive home the fact that God, as our good creator and designer, has revealed to us his plan for sexual flourishing through the Scriptures.

5 Minute Check-In with Yourself and/or Your Spouse:

1. What are some influences in your life that, if you're honest, compete with God's authority? (Work, social media, music, shows, movies?) Pay special attention to how you answer. Whether you like it or not, your child probably also sees this. Before you begin talking with your child about God's authority, make sure you recognize where other things have potentially replaced the Creator in your own life.
 2. How is authority, in general, viewed in your home? Does it have a positive or negative connotation? What about the authority of God? Does it ever get discussed? Be sure you examine this before diving into conversation with your child.
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5 Minute Check-In with Your Child:

1. What stood out to you in this week's teaching and/or small group time?
2. Where do you see authority being a good thing? What about a bad thing?
3. Do you think we as a family do a good job of discussing and then doing the hard work of submitting to the authority of God? (This is a very personal question. If you're not used to having this kind of dialogue in the home, you might save this question for a later time.)

Tips for Further Conversation:

Use mealtimes as an opportunity to take small steps toward bigger and bigger conversations surrounding sex and sexuality. Not every sex talk begins with a question about sex. These conversations are informed by how you engage other questions, live life, and respond to God in your own personal life.

If talking casually about God, life and love throughout your days and weeks isn't something your family is in the habit of doing, there is no better time than now to start!

Remember:

100 one-minute talks are more beneficial than one 100-minute talk! Sometimes the best moments for these one-minute talks happen at the dinner table. If you have young children who aren't ready for these conversations, consider talking to your older children while travelling to and from a sports activity or school. One way to open up dialogue is to talk about things you saw this week and how they impacted you. What did you and your kids watch or listen to that reinforced the values we learn from Scripture? Where did it not share these values? Pray for wisdom and discernment as you open up dialogue that will shape who your child follows and what or who has authority over their life.

Use this time to move your teen from dependence on you to dependence on God!

Additional Resources:

VIDEO: Full-length interview of Francis Chan

TOOL: Weekly devotional

