

Aim: To consider what the 7th Commandment means to young people. 1. God created marriage to be special (it is supposed to teach us about God) 2. Certain things are to be saved for marriage, like private body parts.

Note: This topic may need to be changed depending on the group; older groups may also discuss dating etc.

The 7th commandment is really about love, marriage and families.

Did you know that God was the one who created love, marriage and families, right back at the beginning of the world?

Read Genesis 2:24_{NLT}

Being married doesn't just mean living in the same house together. It means a husband and wife planning together, and working together for the good of each other and for their family. Marriage works the best when God is the most important person in their lives, and then their husband or wife is the second most important person.

The sort of relationship that God planned for marriage is the same sort of relationship that God wants to have with each one of us. When God first created the world, before sin came in, Jesus would visit with Adam and Eve every day. I'm sure they spent some time talking about what they'd seen or done during the day. God loves us very much, He cares about what we think and what we do, He wants to spend time with us, and He is always planning good things for us.

(Can read Philippians 4:6, Jeremiah 29:11)

Unfortunately, like everything else on earth, Satan has taken something good that God created and ruined it.

Can you think of some things that make families unhappy? (Too busy; anger; meanness; depression; tiredness; disagreements, arguments etc)

When families work at making Jesus the most important person in their family and treating their own family members like they want to be treated, then their family will be a happier place; and that is exactly what the 10 Commandments are about. All of the 10 Commandments can be summarised by Luke 10:27.

Read Luke 10:27

Let's have a total change of topic now...

Why do we wear clothes?

Do you know who invented clothes?

When Adam and Eve sinned, they suddenly found they were naked; they tried to make clothes out of fig leaves.

Can you imagine trying to make clothes out of leaves?

It was God who showed them how to make proper clothes from animal skins. God made certain parts of human bodies to be private parts; those parts are supposed to be kept covered and God planned that they should only be seen by that person's husband or wife; they are something special for the married couple.

But you're too young to get married yet, and you're not an adult – **So what does it mean to you?**

1. It means not looking at rude pictures, like pictures of naked people or people who are nearly naked. Now that is not an easy thing to do, because lots of magazines, TV programs and movies have people who aren't wearing very much. **What should you do if your friend tries to show you a rude picture?**
2. It means not looking at other people's private body parts, and, depending on how old you are, it means not showing your private parts (although a doctor might need to see sometimes.) **What should you do if someone at school is showing something inappropriate?**
3. It also means not touching other people's private parts or letting them touch yours.

Remember that God knows what is best; He gave all of the Commandments for a reason. If you follow God's Commandments, when you grow up, if you fall in love and get married, you will have a really good start to your marriage, and if you remember to put God first in your life, and then your husband or wife second, then you should have a very happy marriage, and a happy family.