



SET

APART

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Lesson 2



Lesson 2:
Spoiled!



Bible Verses:
1 Corinthians 5:6-7



Bottom Line:
God calls Christians to be holy and to not allow the world to pull and manipulate them away from the holy lifestyle that He has called them into.

SUPPLIES

- A garbage can or other object for the game
- A “coexist” sticker (optional)
- An apple cut into slices (at least 5)
- A zip-lock bag
- A bottle of vinegar
- A bottle of cinnamon
- A bag to catch the vinegar and cleaning supplies to clean up any mess

OPENING GAME

Poison

Grab a chair or trash can and ask students to hold hands and form a circle.

In the middle of the circle, place a chair or empty trash can and tell the students that the main goal of the game is to not touch the object in the middle of the circle with any part of their body.

During the game, students in the circle have to push and pull each other in order to get someone to touch the object in the middle. At no time can anyone in the circle let go of each other.

If anyone in the circle lets go, then both of them are out.

Anyone who touches the object in the middle of the circle is out.

Reform the circle where any player is eliminated.

The game is over after a set amount of time or if only one person is left.

TEACH

Ask the students:

Was it hard to stay away from the (object in the middle)?

Was it easy to pull others in?

When people were trying to pull you into the middle, did it make you want to fight harder to stay away from the (object in the middle)?

In our last lesson, we talked about how it is important to know that God is holy and that He expects us to be holy if we identify with Him.

Take a few minutes to review last week's lesson with the following questions.

What does holiness mean? (Set apart)

When people in the Bible encountered God, what did they do? (They would cower and bow to Him)

What was the main verse for our last session? (**1 Peter 1:15-16**)

What did we relate holiness to? (Pulling for your favorite team and wearing their colors)

How did our example illustrate holiness? (God wants us to identify with Him because He is holy, i.e. wear His team colors)

You can ask more questions or use follow up questions if time allows.

In our last meeting, we unpacked the word holiness and we found out that it was a big deal to God because He is holy.

It is not something that He just does on the side; holiness is the characteristic of God in which all His other characteristics find their source.

God IS holiness.

Since He is holy, He wants us to be able to identify with Him and be His people.

But how do we do that?

If God wants us to be on His team and to be known as Christians by the way we imitate His characteristics, then an important part of that is being different from the rest of the world, which tries to pull us away from being like Him.

Think about the game we just played because it represents what we are talking about in terms of us being holy.

Being holy requires that we try to be like God in the way we walk and talk.

But just like the game we played today, there are a lot of things in this world that try to pull us away from what we are supposed to do. They try to pull us away from God.

It is hard to go against the flow isn't it?

The world goes with the flow of sin. Sin is anything that goes against God, and if you are not following the world's ideas and standards then you are not going with the flow.

It makes sense for Christians to be against what the world wants and to go with what God wants in our lives, but it is much easier said than done because the world has lots of appealing things, things that feel good, things that sound good, things that look good.

Holiness requires us to look away from these things and look to God, but the world constantly tries to pull us back into the things that displease God.

In our game today, what if I had told you that you could have several friends who could stand behind you and keep you from moving?

Allow students to share their ideas.

One way we can stay on the right path to following God is to surround ourselves with friends who are also on that same path, friends who will help pull us back to God when the world tries to pull us away.

If we really think about it, we all have that friend or many friends that tear us down instead of building us up. And sometimes we do not even notice that it's happening.

We see friends as entertainment and socialization, but we really do not think of them as people that should help us become better as we help them become better.

So how do we choose friends that will help be our "spiritual builders" instead of a spiritual "wrecking ball"?

How do we know which friends to keep and which friends to cut loose so that we can identify more with God?

When the apostle Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, he noticed that they were having the same trouble.

Have a student read 1 Corinthians 5:6-7.

The church in Corinth had an issue with a person in the church who was doing a pretty big sin, but instead of trying to help the man the church was boasting about him and how they were so open-minded they were by letting him stay with them in the church.

Paul was telling the church that they needed to get rid of the sinful person in the church because his sin was like **“a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough”** (NLT).

If there is any word that is common today, it is tolerance.

If you can, show the students a picture or the actual bumper sticker of the “coexist” emblem.

You have seen this sticker probably everywhere; everywhere you hear about how people should all get along and how no one has the right to tell someone else that they are wrong.

But if we want to be holy we can't be with sin, and we certainly shouldn't agree with sin.

In ancient times, yeast was scarce and leaven was the popular alternative.

Leaven was actually just an old piece of dough that had begun to ferment, and when you added it to a new batch of dough it spread its fermentation throughout the whole loaf, making the bread lighter.

The longer the process continued, the greater the danger that the dough would become spoiled.

When the dough became bad, it all needed to be thrown away and the process had to begin again.

Paul was telling the church and us that if we want to be holy we need to get rid of those friends that ruin our spiritual dough.

That means that we have to be intolerant of sin.

It is okay to be tolerant with people; our friends can do crazy things and we should be forgiving.

But what Paul is saying is that it is not okay for us to say we are holy like God and yet put up with being around those who do wrong.

We may still not completely get the idea of not letting a batch of dough become spoiled by a little bit of yeast, but most of us have had some experience, somewhere among our family or friends, with cancer.

We wouldn't want a doctor who said, "It's just a little tumor. It should be a long time before this spreads to anything really important." or "We should all try to be a little more understanding of tumors; after all, they're cells, too."

Sometimes we have to do some spiritual surgery to get rid of the bad things in our lives and to focus on what God needs us to do.

You might have heard the old saying that one bad apple spoils the bunch.

If you leave an apple with a bruise on it with a bunch of good apples, the good apples will get bad spots on them from the bad apple.

I know that most of you would rather talk about pizza or French fries, but this makes for a good illustration of what Paul is trying to tell us about holiness.

At this point you will want to take the apple slices and the zip-lock bag out, making sure you also pull out the vinegar as well.

Pull out an apple slice.

This is Sam (or a name of your choice), and he is a pretty good guy.

Put the slice in the zip-lock and add some cinnamon to the apple.

Sam has some pretty good friends that help each other and try to do the right things.

Add in a few more apple slices and some more cinnamon as well.

Ask a student if he or she would like to try a piece of apple, and ask them how the apple tastes.

Sam meets a guy named Tom (or a name of your choice).

Tom is mean, spiteful, disrespectful, lies, and is just an all-out bad apple.

Pour the vinegar on apple, making sure to soak it: it would be a good idea to let the vinegar from the apple pour into the bag if possible.

Sam knows Tom could be a bad influence, but he wants to be a good apple; he lets Tom into his group because it would be intolerant to not let someone into his circle of friends just because they act a certain way.

Put the vinegar-soaked apple into the bag and shake it up.

You can ask for volunteers to try an apple at this point or you can just ask them what they think the apples would taste like now that the vinegar is in the bag.

Here's the bottom line of our lesson.

Friends are one of the few things in your life that you can control.

You choose who you put in your circle of friends. You have as much power to let someone be your friend as you have the power to cut them loose from being your friend.

You have to make the choice to get rid of the "yeast" in your life, to do the spiritual surgery and remove the friends that shouldn't be there, to take out the bad apple in your bunch.

Your friends can either help you become more holy or they can make you spoiled.

As we get ready to close in prayer, I want you to take a few seconds to think about the friends in your life.

Think about the kind of friend you are, one who builds others up or one that tears them down.

Give students some time to think.

Pray with students that God would open their eyes to the company they keep, and as they go on through their school year that they would seek His wisdom in being intolerant of sin and break down barriers that pull them away from Him.