

2009

MORAL ISSUES LESSON

**ASSOCIATION
CHILDREN'S
CAMP**

FALLS CREEK, OKLAHOMA

CAMP THEME:

**“Gods Word is Truth”
Know It, Live It, Tell It.**

**“Sanctify them in the truth, Your Word is truth.”
John 17:17**

A STUDY ON MORAL ISSUES

**BY
DOUG HENSON
DIRECTOR OF S.A.N.E.
Sooner Alcohol Narcotics Education**

INTRODUCTION

God's Word tells us in 1 Peter 5:8b that "The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." How does the devil devour the children and youth in 2009? Well, there are many ways but I really believe that he uses 3 main ways that fit into the acrostic S.A.D. That would be Sex, Alcohol, and Drugs. For the past two years our study has concentrated on alcohol. In the past alcohol or smoking tobacco was usually the first "big temptation" that children had along these lines. This is very quickly changing. Many times a child will face one of the harder drugs first because of their increasing acceptance. One of these drugs that are becoming more available is Methamphetamine.

In February 2009 all of the major television stations in Oklahoma at one time showed a program called "Crystal Darkness." Crystal Darkness is a 30-minute documentary underscoring the frightening truth about Meth's devastating attack on our children, youth and their families. Some believe that Meth is at an epidemic level in our state and that it threatens the very fabric of our society.

"Crystal Darkness can be purchased by going to the website, oklahomacrystaldarkness.org. It is a very good program but I would suggest that if you intend showing it to your children that you preview it to decide if it is appropriate for your group. It contains some very powerful clips that could be used without viewing the entire program.

Our Moral Issues lesson this year is going to focus on Methamphetamine or what is commonly known as Meth.

HISTORY

Methamphetamine is not a new drug. It has been around since 1919 when it was first synthesized. Methamphetamine is a powerful central nervous system stimulant with a high potential for abuse and dependence. During World War Two amphetamines were given to soldiers and factory workers to help them stay alert. In the 1950s and '60s, Methamphetamines were prescribed to help people lose weight.

But as the use of Meth grew, so did the problem of abuse. It became a cure-all for people wanting to stay awake, for weight control, for increasing athletic performance and to treat mild depression. When intravenous Meth abuse began spreading through the “speed freak” sub-culture, violent and erratic behavior seen among chronic abusers led medical authorities to discontinue its use.

Today's Meth is far more potent than the Meth sold years ago, and the infiltration of Meth in society continues. The recipe for homemade Meth is still in circulation and available over the Internet. It is cheap and easy to make, which when combined with the long lasting high makes Meth a popular substitute for cocaine. A new generation of users has made Meth their drug of choice, leading to an epidemic of Meth and Meth labs across the country.

OBJECTIVE

To help our children understand the risk and consequences of Meth use. To give them tools to use in staying “Drug Free.” To teach them what the Bible says about our bodies.

SCRIPTURES

**Romans 12:1,2; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20;
2 Corinthians 6:16 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:4;
1 Peter 5:8**

LET'S BEGIN THE STUDY

“Watch out for Lions!”

In Gods Word it tells us that Satan is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) Because Gods Word is Truth does that mean we need to watch out for lions? Well, not real lions but Satan does use several things to devour or destroy our lives. One of the things he uses is drugs and one of the worst drugs is called “Methamphetamine” or “Meth.” Meth is a very dangerous drug that even young people your age is tempted to use. Meth is very destructive to the body.

No place in the Bible does it say “Thou Shalt not use drugs.” But the Bible is full of passages that tell us how we should take care of our bodies and how special our bodies are. In this study we are going to look at a few of these passages.

God has given you a very precious gift. This gift is our body. Have you ever taken time to think about how special your body is? The Psalmist David said in Psalms 139:14 that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You ARE wonderfully made. I do not understand many things about the human body. It amazes me to think about how it works. How our muscles and nerves have to work together to even lift one finger. It just astounds me to think how the heart and lungs have to work together to supply our body with oxygen. I can not even understand how our lungs get oxygen out of the air we breathe. Gods' works truly are wonderful.

Every one of us has something we don't like about our bodies. Some of us would like to be taller; some of us would like to be thinner. Some of us wish our hair was a different color or that our teeth were straight or maybe we wish our nose was a little smaller. But did you know that God knew what we were going to look like before we were ever born. He saw us and watched us being formed before we were ever born. (Psalms 139:15,16) He

made us all different but yet he made us all the same. We are all the same because we are made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27) You are made in Gods very image. Your body is a precious gift because you are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. God made you!

Your body is very precious because it is made to be a home for the Spirit of God to live in. You are made to have a relationship with God. Once you have Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. 1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us that. We are God's temple. In Bible times the temple was a very special place. It was the place where the people went to meet God. We have a similar place. It is our church building. We think about our churches and places of worship as being very special and they are. When I was young my mom would always tell me not to run in the church building. She would not allow me to eat candy or chew gum in church because it was "God's House." We were to take care of "God's House." This is true. But, did you realize that your body is "God's House." Your body is very special.

I want you to pretend with me for a minute. Lets pretend that camp is over and you are headed back home. Once you get to the town you are from and drive up to the church your leaders ask you to do something for them. They ask you to go into the auditorium or sanctuary at your church and wait for them to come have one more prayer with you before you head home. Pretend that when you entered the place of worship you noticed that someone had taken red spray paint and painted some of the most nasty curse words on the walls that you have ever heard. Your leader would probably say, "Why would anyone want to do this. Don't they realize that this is God's House?"

I want you to pretend that when you opened the door to your church you were hit in the face with lots and lots of smoke. Not from the building being on fire but while you were gone someone had taken a large trash can and filled it with grass clippings and leaves from the yard and placed it in your church right next to the pulpit. Then they had placed a match in the clippings and set

them on fire but the fire was just large enough to cause lots of smoke as those clipping and leaves just sat there and smoldered. Would that make you very happy? More than likely you would get very upset and say, “Why would anyone want to do this? Don’t they realize that this is God’s House?”

Or let us pretend something else. Let’s say that when you opened that door a very foul odor hit you. It was the odor of rotting grain. Someone had taken water that had been sitting on rotting grain and poured it all over your pews. They had poured it into the carpet and over the pulpit. While you were worshiping on Sunday you had to sit and smell that terrible odor. Your thoughts would probably be, “Who are these people who did this terrible thing. Don’t they realize that this is God’s House?”

We would all be upset if those things really happened to our church building. We would say, “Don’t these people realize how special this place is? Don’t they realize that this is God’s House?” But let me remind you of something. The scripture that we read in 1 Corinthians 3:16 told us that we are “God’s House.” Your body is just as special as that building you call “the church.” Actually it is more special.

Oh, those curse words that were painted on your church wall. Those are the words that are painted on the inside of many of our hearts because of the television programs we watch and the music we listen too. We would never want to hear those words spoken in our church yet we place them in our heart by listening to them.

The smoke that I described is smoking tobacco and drugs such as marijuana. Both destroy the body. Don’t ever let anyone tell you that marijuana is a safe drug. It is not! Tobacco and marijuana dos not belong in our church building so why should it belong in our body “the temple.”

Oh, by the way that rotting grain I was talking about. That was beer and other alcoholic drinks. Have you ever taken time to

think about how beer is made? It is nothing more than water that has been sitting on rotting grain. The grain is barley. The rotting process is called fermentation. That is all fermentation is. It is the process of the grain rotting and in the rotting process the sugar and starch in the grain turns into alcohol. Really appetizing isn't it. Alcoholic beverages have no place in the life of a Christian.

We are to take care of our body, "the temple." Other scriptures that bring this out are: Romans 12:1,2; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:4. Some of these passages are talking about other things that destroy the body but the end result is the same. We are to take care of our body.

I have said all of this to bring us to this point. One of the most addictive drugs that is used today is Methamphetamine or what we commonly call Meth. Meth is very harmful to the body. It destroys the teeth. It destroys the brains ability to function properly. It is very harmful to several of the other organs of the body. Because it is so harmful to the body, Meth should be avoided at all cost.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

- 1. Just like other states, Oklahoma has a problem with Meth. Shown in the picture is a crude lab from right here in Oklahoma. Does this look like a lab that would make something healthy for you?**
- 2. These are some of the chemicals used to make Meth. Battery acid, camp fuel, drain cleaner....Do any of these belong in a persons body?**
- 3. Labs can be set up anywhere. Even in the truck of a car or a kitchen. Many times motel rooms are used so they can go off and leave the dangerous mess.**
- 4. What does Meth look like?**
- 5. Crystal Meth looks much like ice. One of the slang terms used for it is "ice."**

- 6. But depending on the purity of it and the chemicals used to make it, Meth can look several different ways.**
- 7. Yes it can even look like candy. This bad is Meth that is disguised as grape pop rocks. This is one reason you should never take candy from someone you do not know well.**
- 8. What does Meth do to the body?**
- 9. Meth drains the body of calcium. The teeth rot because of the lack of calcium. If Meth is doing this to the teeth what do you think it is doing to the bones?**
- 10. Meth speeds up the body. Because of that it ages the body very quickly. Slides 10—12 shows what it does to the body. Out of reverence for God we should keep our bodies pure and clean from anything that would harm it. This includes all types of drugs including Meth. God's Word is Truth and God's Word tells us to take care of our body. Therefore we are to take care of our bodies so that he will be glorified.**