

Discussion Questions for the week of May 10 BIG IDEA:

We choose steps, not destinations. We cannot choose a destination without carefully choosing our steps. Every choice we make is a step towards either a destination we want or one we don't want. The decisions we make today will determine where we end up and who we become in the future. Life and death are set before us. Choose to take steps toward life.

ICE BREAKER:

What is the last youtube video you watched? OR What's the last movie you saw in theatres? OR What are you currently loving on Netflix?

DISCUSSION:

At Wake, we read Proverbs 7 and Proverbs 6. Let's back up for a moment and read Psalm 119:9-16.

- 1. This week as we talk about appearances we want to first center around purity. Is purity a choice?
- 2. How does purity relate to appearances?

Does it go beyond just physical/ outward?

3. Why would we want to store up God's word in our heart (vs 11)?

Read Proverbs 7:1-7

- 4. In the first few verses it talks again about God's word and command. Specifically, it uses the word treasure. How do you make something a treasure in your heart?
- 5. Can man have multiple treasures?

Look at verse 6 & 7 again

- 6. The "window of his house" and "looking through the lattice" what are those illustrating?
- 7. What is the equivalent of that in your life? What are small ways you maybe peer out a window or gaze through lattice? (help kids understand this is just creating a metaphor or word picture).
- Harrison said longing leads to looking, looking leads to lingering, and lingering leads to ______.Fill in the blank
- 9. Not everyone's struggle is appearance with the physical, a lot of us can struggle with needing or seeking satisfaction from parent/authority approval, performance, success in academics, success socially, success in sports. What is the longing that stirs you to want to "look" out or really look elsewhere?
- 10. Harrison talked about "triggers" and knowing when he is vulnerable or at a weaker state. Think about how you are wired and operate- when could you be more likely to lean in to a longing? When is your heart susceptible to be drawn away?

Harrison talked about when he's hungry, tired, insecure... kids could say the same, could also say lonely, down on self, feeling humiliated, feeling pressured/compared

Consider the phrase reap what we sow. In even just peering out the window can we sow thoughts in our hearts? Sow a thought, reap an <u>act</u>. Sow an act, reap a <u>habit</u>. Sow a habit, reap a <u>character</u>. Sow a character, reap a <u>destiny</u>. **Look up and read Galatians 6:7-10 together**.

- 11. What do you think it means when it talks about "sowing to please the sinful nature"?
- 12. Could these verses relate beyond appearances and apply to media intake as well? How do these verses relate to tie in to what we hear or see in music, movies, tv, games, and the internet?

Feeding our minds with thoughts we're allowing to be in our "yard" so to speak, because we're giving opportunity to gaze upon these things.

APPLICATION:

- 13. What can you do to develop a sensitivity to the Lord when it comes to choices about purity?
- 14. Continue with the illustration set before us in Proverbs 7. A man can sit in his house and gaze out the window or he can peer through the lattice. Can some of the thoughts, longing, temptation be tempered by the neighbors we keep our house next to? Consider the illustration further- what block do we reside on? Are there friends you can invite into your house, ones that will draw the metaphorical curtains?

Spur kids to think through the crowd they run with company they keep and where they have or haven't inviousness to keep them accountable. Philippians 4:8 see the purity hand out for students.

- 15. Look up and read Hebrews 13:12-13 & Romans 5:8-11 together. Why do you think it is important to know at least a few other people who are making similar choices about media/purity/ relationships/ appearance? Who are one or two people who you know you can trust to support and encourage you to glorify God in your choices?
- 16. Look up and read Ephesians 5:8-11 & Matthew 5:14-16. How can you identify with Christ and shine His light when it comes to choices? If Jesus were around today, how would his consumption of media look differently from your consumption of media? (think Netflix binge) What does that tell you about what needs to change?
- 16. If there's time look at the handout for purity. Consider the high bar we have been called to by God's word. Do you have the right neighbors and friends who you can be fully known and accountable to? What can you do to be mature? What are ditches you recognize? Thought patterns that need pointing out?

Nobody has to share or have a grand "ah hah" moment. We want this 'gentle prodding' to take root in their life. We want students to bear fruit of Godly choices.