**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Secure the Furniture!**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Mark 11:15–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk11.15-19).

**Consider**

As Jesus stepped into the temple, He saw something that drove Him to action. What should have been used as a house of prayer had been turned into a marketplace. The sellers and money changers were using a space dedicated to God for their own purposes.

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| **QUESTION**What was your reaction to the way Jesus acted in this situation? |

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| **QUESTION**What does this encounter tell you about Jesus? Does it fit into your ideas about Him? |

**Reflect**

Maybe the Lord has brought to mind unholy things you have allowed to take up space in your life. Maybe you are watching or listening to things that you know don’t please God. Maybe you’re spending time with people who don’t live a life pleasing to God, and it’s rubbing off on you. No matter what it is, ask Jesus to help you clear these things out of your life. Jesus was upset at what was going on inside the temple because He understood that those things were obstacles to people’s relationship with God. Jesus’ aim is to help us remove obstacles for our own good as well.

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| **QUESTION**What sin do you need to allow God to remove from your life? |

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| **QUESTION**How would dealing with these areas bring change to your life? |

**Activate**

Go through your room and school locker. Remove any items that may be questionable when it comes to your relationship with God. Set limits on your computer and/or give your parents your password to help keep you accountable. Take action, just as Jesus did in the temple, to clear your life.

**Pray**

Dear God, I pray for courage to say no to the sins I keep allowing into my life. I want to live a life that is holy and pleasing to You. I ask that the Holy Spirit would be my spiritual eyes as I walk through each day. Reveal to me what is and is not something I should be a part of. I want others to look at my life and see You. Amen.

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**Day 2: Monkey See, Monkey Don’t Do**

**Engage**

Read [Romans 12:1–2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro12.1-2).

**Consider**

In this passage, we see Paul stressing the importance of giving our life to God. He encouraged us not to copy what the world does, but instead, to seek God and allow Him to change us. All our actions start with a thought. This is why we must allow God to renew our mind and change the way we think. If we can think in a way that is holy and pleasing, our behaviors and actions will follow in the same way. This is how we can truly live a holy life.

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| **QUESTION**Why did Paul challenge us to not copy the behavior and customs of this world? |

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| **QUESTION**How does allowing God to transform our mind help us know His will for our life? |

**Reflect**

We all know how difficult it is to resist temptation. By nature, we are drawn to sinful things. However, we must consider the benefits of saying no to those things and yes to Jesus. A quote attributed to Abraham Lincoln says, “Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most.” We can get caught up in sin because we want it now. But we must remind ourself of what we should want most—living out God’s will and choosing to follow His ways.

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| **QUESTION**How does what Paul said in this Scripture challenge you to be more careful about what you are doing with your life? |

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| **QUESTION**How might allowing God to transform our thinking help us live in a way that pleases Him? |

**Activate**

Write out the quote, “Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most,” and place it somewhere you will see it daily. Let it serve as a reminder for you to choose wisely.

**Pray**

Dear God, help me to see the ways I am copying the ways of the world. I recognize how easy it is to get wrapped up in sinful things. But I know what I want most and that is to follow You and live a life pleasing to You. I pray that my life will be open and surrendered to You. Transform my mind so that all things in my life will honor You. Amen.

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**Day 3: Don’t Slip**

**Engage**

Read [1 Peter 1:13–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe1.13-20).

**Consider**

This letter was written by the disciple Peter decades probably after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter wanted to encourage the Christians who were being persecuted by those who didn’t believe Jesus was the Messiah. He reminded them of all Jesus did for them through His death. And because of this ultimate sacrifice, Christians are called to a higher standard, no matter what those around us believe. This is something we must remind ourself today. Jesus paid the highest price to save us from a life of emptiness and hopelessness. We must make sure that we don’t slip back into the old life we have turned away from and that we continue to live a life that pleases Him.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to “exercise self-control”? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think it’s so important that we live in a way that is obedient to God? |

**Reflect**

To be holy means to be set apart for a special purpose. Living holy means that we don’t conform to the world’s way of thinking and acting. Imagine what our world would look like if everyone who said they were followers of Jesus truly sought holiness. When we make a choice to live holy, we can live in the way that Jesus wants for us.

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| **QUESTION**Would you say you are doing your best to live holy for God? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you need to do to turn this around in your life and live in obedience? |

**Activate**

Do you have friends who are slipping back into their old ways of living (verse [14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe1.14))? Encourage them with these verses. Let them know they can live a holy life, and that you are there to encourage them.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank You for everything You did so that I can live the life I have in You. I don’t want to get caught up in what the world values and slip back into my old ways of living. I want to continuously live a holy life. Help me to see my life as a thank-you letter to You. Amen.

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**Day 4: A Fight to the Death!**

**Engage**

Read [Galatians 5:16–26](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga5.16-26).

**Consider**

This passage of Scripture is monumental in the life of any Christian. In it, Paul describes the battle to fight our sinful desires and how the Holy Spirit guides our life. Paul helped us realize these two are always opposing each other in our daily life. It is up to us to decide which way we will go. The obvious problem is that, when we allow our sinful nature to take charge of our life, we won’t be able to inherit the kingdom of God. We should instead allow the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in us. We must fight to leave the sinful nature behind and strive to live according to the Spirit.

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| **QUESTION**How did Paul describe what our sinful nature wants? |

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| **QUESTION**What will our life look like if we allow our sinful nature to take over? |

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| **QUESTION**What does life look like for those who belong to Christ? |

**Reflect**

Many Christians don’t think about the constant battle happening within us. We should be grateful that the Holy Spirit wants to help us reflect the characteristics of God and produce fruit in our life. We can’t do it on our own. But, it’s up to us to make the decision to turn to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to help us.

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| **QUESTION**According to verse [17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga5.17), how do we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our life? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the benefit of being led by the Spirit? |

**Activate**

Think of someone you admire and respect who loves Jesus. Grab your phone and reach out to them. Give them permission to speak truthfully to you. Then ask them to help keep you accountable to growing the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

**Pray**

Dear God, please help me to say yes to Your Spirit living inside me and no to my sinful nature. I know that, with Your help and the help of those I’m closest to, I can point my life in Your direction more each day. I want to remove all things that are not of You and replace them with the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

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**Day 5: Getting Closer**

**Engage**

Read [James 4:1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas4.1-10).

**Engage**

James, the author of the verses you just read, is known for being extremely straightforward. He can easily step on our toes by getting right to the heart of the issue. This passage is no exception. As he stated, Christians can’t be a friend to the world and God at the same time. You are either one or the other. We must learn to humble ourself and surrender to God’s will for our life. We must choose to resist the temptations the devil flaunts in front of us.

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| **QUESTION**What do these verses describe as a cause of fights among Christians? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think it’s impossible to be both friends of the world and of God? |

**Reflect**

It can be difficult to read through the Book of James because he doesn’t sugarcoat anything. Yet as hard as the words may be to read, many people today need this sort of up-front and in your face challenge. Far too many Christians allow themselves to get way too close to the world. James ended this passage by urging us to recognize that there should be a sense of sorrow when we turn our back on right living. We should humble ourself and recognize that we can’t have one foot in the world and the other in a relationship with God. We must choose a life of being all in with Christ.

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| **QUESTION**What changes would you need to make to live a humbler life? |

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| **QUESTION**What has the Lord been speaking to you most about during these devotions? |

**Activate**

As often as you can remember, ask God to purify your heart each time you wash your hands. Let the simple act of washing your hands serve as a prayerful reminder.

**Pray**

Dear God, in a world that is so bombarded with sinful and ungodly temptations, I want to be able to resist the devil’s schemes and focus on my relationship with You. If there are any areas I need to clean up, please help me remove what needs removed from my life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.