



# Life, Joy and The Pursuit of God

Pinellas Park 2015 Study Guide  
Quarter 4

“ Faith includes  
noticing the mess, the  
emptiness and discomfort,  
and letting it be there until  
some light returns. ”

— ANNE LAMOTT

“And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

*How do we find joy? People pay a lot of lip service to it, but in reality each day is spent searching for it like an elusive snipe in a hunt that will only humiliate and mock. The Bible tells us over and over to “rejoice,” and yet the fact that we live in a broken world invades that same space and robs us of it.*

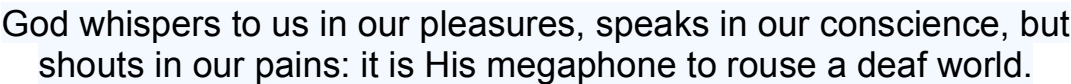
*I recently read a list of things a person can do to find joy in their life. The list began with “play with children” and continued through such things as “dress up for no reason,” “eat a cupcake,” “create something,” “walk in the rain,” “play in the mud,” and so on. At the end of the list, and fittingly so, was this admonition – “surrender it all to God.”*

*No matter what we do and who we are, to fully experience life and find joy we must have the ability to tie what we do and who we are back to God, His purpose and meaning. This is why the fool says in his heart “there is no God.” It works to his own detriment and robs him of not just power, but the joy of purpose and meaning. It robs him of knowing that life is about something more than self and things that turn to dust or ashes or rust or far worse.*

*In 2015 the challenge will be to once again delve into the scripture, but do so from beginning to end considering each topic as a point of truth that reveals the mind of God to us in brilliant form. Beginning at Genesis we will consider various topics that go along with each text and mine those wonderful nuggets of truth to sustain and grow our faith and find our joy.*

*Only three resources are needed for this journey – your Bible, this notebook, and a heart that is ready to seek God and the truth that he has revealed to us, whether we will always find that comfortable or not, which I doubt we will. You should also know that these notes were produced using primarily the English Standard Version of the Bible and may be easier to study and read with that version.*

*American Scientist and inventor George Washington Carver once said, “I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.” If he does such through nature, then think of the joy and meaning we will find in reading and studying and meditating upon His word.*



## Lesson 19 – It's A Gamble

## Video - WVBS - The Truth About Moral Issues - Gambling

1. Are there any verses in the Bible that directly address the issue of gambling?

2. What are some of the common arguments against gambling that are simply not true?

3. How gambling defined? List the three parts.

4. What motivates men to gamble in the first place? Read Ex. 20:17

5. How does Galatians 6:10 figure into the whole idea of gambling?

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:10

6. What is the “Fruit test”? Read Mt. 17: 17-18

9. Is gambling addictive? What sort of evidence is there for this?

7. What sort of fruit does gambling bear?

10. How is 1 Corinthians 6:12 condemn gambling as a past time?

8. What does Proverbs 13:11 say about gambling?

11. Can we be good stewards and be a gambler? What verses are relevant?

12. Given the odds of “winning” at gambling endeavors, is it good stewardship to gamble? Who or why not?

13. You are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_ than win the lottery? What are the odds of winning the average lottery?

14. How is our influence affected by gambling? Read 1 Corinthians 8:13; James 1:27

15. What are some of the common defenses of gambling?

Notes:





## **Lesson 20 – And We Danced**

WVBS – WVBS – The Truth About Moral Issues - Dancing

Notes

1. How would you define “dancing?”
2. How often is this word used in the Bible?
3. How are these words used in the scripture? (two ways – list scripture)
4. What does Galatians 5:19 say about dancing?
5. What is lasciviousness and how often does it occur in the Bible?
6. How does Matthew 5:28 condemn dancing?
7. Mark 6:21, 22 is an example of dancing for what purpose?

8. Can dancing lead to “other things?” Read Proverbs 5:7ff and 1 Cor. 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality.  
Every other sin a person  
commits is outside the body,  
but the sexually immoral  
person sins against his own  
body

*1 Cor. 6:18*

9. What does 1 Cor. 15:33 have to do with dancing and dances?

Notes:

10. What are some of the things that often go along with dancing?

11. What about dancing for exercise?

12. What about dancing between a husband and a wife in their own home?

13. What about things like the hokey-pokey?

14. What is the overarching principle we must use to guide whether we dance or not?  
James 1:27



## **Lesson 21 – Tattoos and Piercings**

WVBS – The Truth About Moral Issues Tattoos and Piercings

Notes:

1. About what percent of people have tattoos?
2. What are common misconceptions about what the Bible says about tattoos? Read Lev. 19:27, 28
3. What is Lev. 19:27, 28 a reference to?
4. How is the principle of influence important to the tattoo issue? Read 1 Cor. 11:6
5. Do you think having a tattoo might send a message that can detract from our Christian influence?
6. What does modesty have to do with tattoos and piercings? Read 1 Tim. 2:9, 10



7. Is getting a tattoo a stewardship issue?  
How so?

So I would have  
younger widows marry,  
bear children, manage  
their households, and  
give the adversary no  
occasion for slander

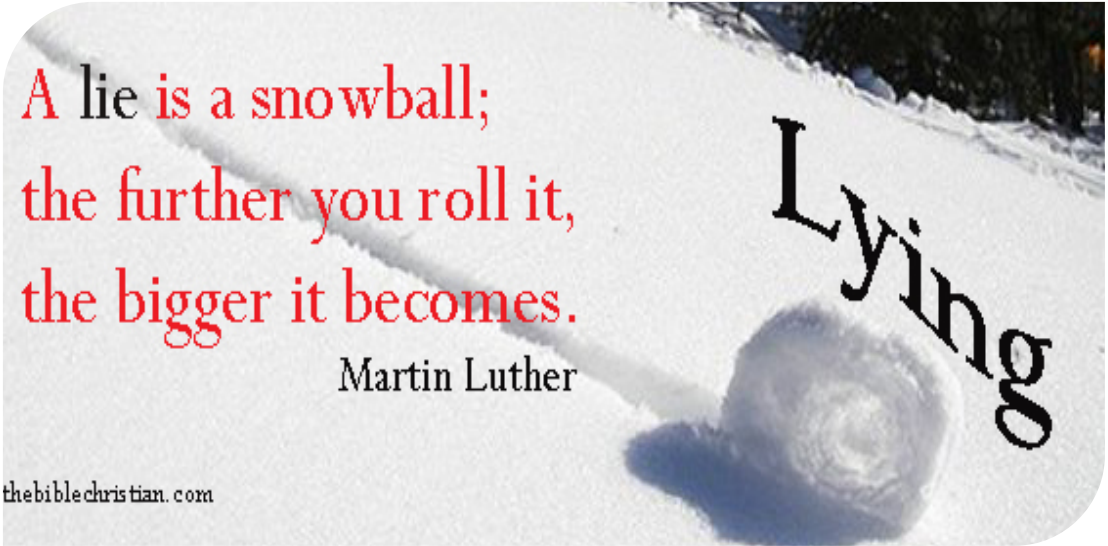
1 Tim. 5:14

8. What if the tattoo is simple and won't be  
seen? Is that wrong? Read 1 Tim. 5:14

Notes:

9. What about getting a religious tattoos?

10. What if I already have a tattoo? Is that  
sinful?



A lie is a snowball;  
the further you roll it,  
the bigger it becomes.

Martin Luther

[thebiblechristian.com](http://thebiblechristian.com)

Lying

## **Lesson 22 – Lies, Lies, Lies (Part 1)**

WVBS – The Truth About Moral Issues – Lying (Part 1)

Notes

1. How often does the average person lie per day, according to research?
2. When do people say they would lie most often?
3. At what age does lying become a problem for people?
4. Why do you think God hates lying? Read Proverbs 6:16-18
5. How do we define lying?

6. Can you tell a lie without speaking words? If so, how?

7. Can God lie? Read Titus 1:2; 2 Peter 3:8

8. How is lying contrary to the nature of God himself? Read John 14:6; Ps. 33:4; Jn. 17:17; Ps. 31:5

9. Are there passages that directly forbid it? Read Lev. 19:11; Ex. 20:16; Rev. 21:8

10. Who is the Father of Lies? Read John 8:44

11. What should our estimation of lying be? List some passages that are relevant.

...He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth because the truth is not in him.

John 8:44

12. Why do some people lie? Read Prov. 21:6

13. Is there such a thing as the little white lie?

14. What does lying do to your reputation, others and the church? Read 1 Kings 13:16ff

# telling lies

## **Lesson 23 - Lies, Lies, Lies - Part 2**

WVBS - The Truth About Moral Issues - Lying Part 2

Notes

1. Is there ever a situation in which it would be okay to lie and do so with God's approval?
2. Would it be right to lie when you perceive that it would save a life or to avoid negative consequences?
3. What is situation ethics and why would it be wrong? Read Gen. 20:11

4. What about being a spy or government programs that require secrets and undercover operations? Read Prov. 23:23

All liars shall have  
their part in the lake  
that burns with  
fire...

Revelation 21:8

5. Does mercy override truth?
6. Does the story of Rahab justify the telling of a lie? Is God's blessing justification for the lie?
7. Do the actions of the Hebrew midwives justify lying? Read Ex. 1:15-22
8. Did God tell Samuel to lie?
9. Read Matthew 2:7-9. Did the wise men lie by not returning to the king?
10. List the arguments that tell us lying is always wrong?





## Lesson 24 – Modesty and the Bible

Video – The Truth About Moral Issues - modesty

### Notes:

- ☐ 1. What would you say is the cultural norm for dress? What adjectives would you use to describe it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ☐ 2. What did Jeremiah mean when he said the people of his day lost the ability “to blush.” Read Jeremiah 6:15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ☐ 3. Why is modesty such an important issue that we are called to discuss and what are the reasons we often do not want to talk about it?

4. What is the difference between Mt. 5:28 and Proverbs 5:18-19?

5. What does Job 31:1 teach about modesty?

6. Does the Bible tell us how we are to dress? Read Gen. 2:25; 3:7, 21; Ex. 28:40ff; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10

“Were they ashamed  
when they committed  
abomination?  
No, they were not at all  
ashamed;  
they did not know how  
to blush.”

***1 Timothy 5:23***

7. Isn't modesty applicable to men as well? Why then are women most often spoken of?

8. How can modesty impact other people and why is that important?

9. Isn't that the problem of the person who is sinning?

10. How can our choice of dress affect the church? Read 1 Peter 1:15, 16

“I have made a covenant  
with my eyes;  
how then could I gaze at a  
virgin”

Proverbs 31:4, 5

**Notes:**

11. What are some of the false ideas with regard to modest apparel?

12. What should outnumber one consideration be when determining how we dress?

# Life, Joy, and Pursuit of God At A Glance

**Lessons 1, 2 and 3** – Origins – God and the World (WVBS – “Truth Be Told”)

**Lessons 4 and 5** – Origins –The Bible (WVBS – “How We Got The Bible”)

**Lesson 6** – Origins - Serpent, Satan and Sin

**Lesson 7** – Babel, World Religions and Cultures

**Lesson 8** – Noah, Nephilim and Ne’er do wells (WVBS – “Reality...Noah’s Ark”)

**Lesson 9** – Alleged Contradictions and the Bible (WVBS )

**Lessons 10 and 11** – The Sodom and Gomorrah lifestyle (WVBS “Homosexuality”)

**Lesson 12** – What is Islam? (WVBS “Cross and the Crescent”)

**Lesson 13** – Why do men suffer? – WVBS (“Evil Pain and Suffering”)

**Lesson 14** – He slept with his fathers where?(WVBS “Where do we go when we die?”)

**Lessons 15 and 16** – Angels appeared to Abraham? (WVBS – Angels)

**Lessons 17 and 18** – Drink, Drinking, Drunk (WVBS - “Truth About Drinking”)

**Lesson 19** – It’s A Gamble (WVBS)

**Lessons 20** - Moral issues – Dancing (WVBS)

**Lesson 21** – Moral issues – Tattoos and Piercing (WVBS)

**Lesson 22 and 23** – Lies, Lies, and more Lies – Like Father, Like son (WVBS)

**Lessons 24** – Modesty – WVBS

**Lessons 25 and 26** – Origins – Historical Jesus

**Lesson 27**– Origins – The Holy Spirit

**Lesson 28** – How the Thief Was Saved?

**Lesson 29** – Mother Mary May I?

**Lesson 30** – Who Killed Jesus (WVBS – “Killing of Jesus”)

# Life, Joy, and Pursuit of God At A Glance

**Lessons 31 and 32** – Marriage and Divorce (WVBS “Marriage, Divorce and...”)

**Lessons 33 and 34** – What Jesus Taught about Money (WVBS “My God & Money”)

**Lesson 35** – What Jesus Taught about Fasting

**Lesson 36** – What Jesus Taught about Prayer

**Lesson 37** – What Jesus Taught about Forgiveness

**Lesson 38** – Jesus as the Only Way to Salvation (W.L. Craig – One True religion?)

**Lesson 39** – Modest Apparel and Worship (WVBS )

**Lesson 4 and 41** – Women’s Roles in the NT (WVBS “Women & Church”)

**Lesson 42** - Baptism and Salvation

**Lesson 43** – Faith, Works and Salvation

**Lessons 44 and 45** – Sex and Spirituality

**Lesson 46** – TV, Movies and Facebook, Oh My! (WVBS – “Managing Media”)

**Lesson 47** – The Early Church and Worship (WVBS “Truth about Worship”)

**Lessons 48 and 49** – Moral Issues Among Us (WVBS – Abortion, Swearing, etc.)

**Lesson 50** - False Teaching and Fellowship (WVBS “Should we Disfellowship?”)

**Lessons 51 and 52** – End Times – Left Behind? (WVBS )



# Joy!

...the settled assurance that God is in control of every aspect of my life...that all will be taken care of...the ability to give Him praise and honor no matter what happens.