

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Exodus 20: 14–15



Week of: September 29, 2025



Message Title: Words 7 & 8: Honoring Marriage, Trusting God



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

Share one real-life example (from your story or someone close to you) where God’s way of faithfulness or integrity clearly clashed with our culture’s “consume whatever you want” mindset. What happened, and what did you learn?

2. READ TOGETHER

Have someone from your group read Exodus 20:14–15 aloud as a group.

Ask: Pastor Lenard showed that adultery and theft both spring from the same root—seeking to take what God has not given and refusing to trust Him to provide. Where do you feel that temptation most right now, and what would trusting God look like in that spot?

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (30–40 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *You don’t need to go through all the questions with the group. Choose the most relevant ones.*

1. “Let marriage be held in honor among all” (Heb. 13:4). In your circles, what most undermines honoring marriage? What practices help keep the marriage bed “undefiled”?
2. Pastor taught that biblical marriage (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31–32) pictures Christ and the Church. How does that gospel picture raise the stakes for our purity and faithfulness?
3. Jesus pressed the seventh word to the heart level (Matt. 5:27–30). Where do you see “heart-level adultery” (lust, fantasy, porn, emotional affairs) trying to take root, and what drastic but wise steps fit Jesus’ counsel for you?

4. Read 1 Cor. 6:15–20. How does remembering that your body is “a temple of the Holy Spirit” reshape your decisions with your eyes, phone, and habits this week?
5. Col. 3:5 and 1 Thess. 4:3–5 call us to kill sin and control our bodies “in holiness and honor.” What rhythms, boundaries, or accountability have actually helped—and what new step is the Spirit nudging you to take?
6. “You shall not steal” respects people and property because “the earth is the LORD’s” (Ps. 24:1–2). Where are subtle forms of theft most tempting (work time, taxes, piracy, cutting corners), and what does repentance look like?
7. Pastor listed ways Scripture names theft: withholding wages (Lev. 19:13; Jas. 5:4), moving boundaries, fraud, predatory lending, and more. Which of these challenged you, and how can you walk in integrity this week?
8. Malachi 3:8–10 confronts “robbing God,” while Eph. 4:28 shows the gospel turning thieves into givers. How does regular, cheerful generosity de-throne money and train our hearts to trust the Lord as Provider?
9. Bethel’s mission is *to proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*. In what concrete ways do sexual faithfulness and everyday honesty make our gospel more believable to neighbors and coworkers—and how will you live that out this week?
10. One of Bethel’s core values is service (Serving). Identify one person you can serve in a way that upholds faithfulness (supporting a marriage, helping someone set healthy boundaries) or integrity (meeting a real need instead of “getting ahead”). What’s your plan and when will you do it?

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Foster a spirit of repentance and trust in the Lord’s provision.

Prompt:

Confess where lust, secrecy, or entitlement has crept in. Receive Christ’s cleansing and freedom. Ask the Spirit for renewed delight in God’s design for marriage and singleness, and for integrity that refuses to take what isn’t ours. Pray that we would be a generous, honest people who trust the Father to provide and shine as a compelling community in our city.