

For the month of February and the first week of March, we're going to be focusing on the issue of purity.

On Sundays, we're going to be breaking the group up into guys and ladies with our own Kevin Dawson leading the men, with Christi Linville and Nicole Schierling leading the ladies.

In addition, we'll have some guest speakers on Wednesday nites.

Below you'll see their respective greetings as well as some of their background when it comes to the issue of abstinence.

Let me first introduce you to the two ladies that will be leading our young women on Sundays. This is Christi Linville and Nicole Schierling:

Hello parents! My name is Christi Linville, and I have the privilege of speaking to your daughter(s) for the next four weeks about sexual purity. My good friend and sister in Christ, Nicole Schierling, will be teaching with me. We have a deep passion for reaching girls with the truths about relationships, desire, marriage, and sex. We know, as do you, that God has rules in place regarding each of these for our good. Rather than just spit out a list of rules they must follow, we intend to make them excited about the good things that are in store for them if they do follow them. We will invite them to go deeper in a love relationship with their Savior and find their worth and value in Him. We know that if they are confident that they are treasured and loved by God first, they won't feel such a strong need to get a boy to build them up and meet those needs. It's a safeguard.

We will demonstrate through Scripture how God's rules for sex are not restrictions to *make* us struggle and be miserable. His rules are there to keep us *from* struggling and being miserable. They are there to free us up to enjoy sex more. We will cause them to think beyond the obvious consequences of STD's and unwed pregnancy. We will show them exactly how it can affect their marriages down the road. We want them to fear the consequences of stepping outside God's lines, and also look forward to the many rewards of obedience. One of the things we will ask the girls each week is "When do you start protecting/building your marriage?" The answer, of course, is "NOW".

We will not only address sex, but also inappropriate touching, "sexting", social networking, and modesty in dress and speech. We will talk frankly and openly about the question they all want to know, "How far is too far?" No question or topic is off limits with us, and we will give the girls a chance to ask questions (anonymously) about anything they aren't sure of.

We want you to know up front that we will use Scripture heavily throughout each lesson, but we will also be using some secular things as well. One in particular is the Twilight series of books. We have a few passages from the books in a couple of our lessons. I realize they are somewhat controversial, but they also deal with issues like sexual desire (the physical feelings associated with it), intense longing, etc. and we will be dealing openly and candidly with the girls on these topics. We want them to be prepared when they face these temptations. They don't have to have read them to understand the points made, nor are we encouraging them to read them. We did these lessons at our home church two years ago, and parents there were very supportive once they knew our intent. If you have questions about this, feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone and we will be glad to answer your questions.

Lastly, we aim to not only spell out the "why", but also the "how". We will show them how to create their own personal game plan for maintaining purity. We'll discuss setting and keeping boundaries, having "the talk" with the guy(s) they choose to date, talking to their parents about their struggles, and what to do if they ever find themselves in a situation where the temptation seems too strong. Of course, we will also talk to the girls about repentance, forgiveness, redemption and grace for those who have already crossed some lines. We strongly believe that while you can't get your virginity back, God can and does restore your purity. What a wonderful, loving God we serve!

We look forward to meeting you and your daughter(s). We welcome your presence in the class each week, HOWEVER, we have noticed that girls are not as forthcoming with conversation and/or questions when a parent is in the room. If you know your daughter will "squirm" with you in the class you may want to help her out a little and keep some distance for these few weeks. It's entirely up to you, though. You are also welcome to view our teaching notes for each week so you can see exactly what we will be talking about. Just e-mail a request and we can get those to you.

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Purity Series

Week 1 (Feb 5) – You are a Treasure

Week 2 (Feb 19th) – Jesus, Hero of my love story

Week 3 (Feb 26th) – God’s plan for sex: rewards and consequences

Week 4 (March 4th) – The Game Plan

This is Kevin Dawson who’s a member right here at New Hope. He’ll be leading our young men on Sunday mornings:

My name is **Kevin Dawson**, and I will be teaching sexual purity during Sunday School for the month of February. I worked for 2 ½ years at an abstinence education program in West Tennessee called, “Right Choices.” Currently I am a middle school teacher in Metro Nashville Public Schools. I am excited about the opportunity to share God’s design in a church environment. Some of the topics I will be focusing on include sex in the bible, desensitization, accountability, guarding our hearts, minds, and bodies. I look forward to this opportunity to serve your students.

On Wednesday, February 8th, Daniel Robertson will be speaking. Say, “Hello!” to Daniel:

My name is **Daniel Robertson** and my wife’s name is Rachel we live in Gallatin Tn.

We go to The Church at Indian Lake in Hendersonville, Tn. where I am one of the Lay Pastors. I was ordained in Aug. 21st 2011. I lead our 4th through 6th graders during second service. My wife and I also work in the youth department. We are very excited to share our story on Wednesday, Feb.8th with your youth group.

Myra Simmons will be leading the group on Wednesday the 15th and the 22nd. Here’s Myra:

Myra Simons has worked to present the vision of the pro-life community since September 2002. Having been guest speaker to over 150 churches, women’s groups, pastors’ conferences, special pro-life events, radio and television venues, public and private high schools and pregnancy care center events, Myra speaks with conviction on this very urgent issue that has

affected not only non-Christians, but has hit at the very heart of Christian men and women as well.

Having been a member of the Board of Directors of a local pregnancy care center, Myra truly has a heart to reach women with the truth of the sanctity of human life and that every life has meaning and is worth saving.

Through her ***Faithful to Life Ministry*** and her work with the ***Decisions, Choices and Options*** teen pregnancy program she has a true desire to share the facts regarding the sanctity of human life in order to not only bring clarity to the harms of the abortion travesty in our society, but also to share the healing process through Christ that is available to anyone who has had to face these difficult choices.

She and her husband of 18 years have two children and attend Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, TN.

Myra's degree in Business Administration and Broadcast Speech from Bob Jones University has helped prepare her to be a dynamic voice for the Voiceless in our society.

It's been great watching all of this come together. We'll be wrapping things up, Sunday the 12th of March with a special time during the service where we'll be recognizing those who have made a commitment to purity.

It's going to be great!

If you have any questions, give me a holler. Also, be in prayer. It is one's relationship with Christ that produces the resolve and the perspective needed to keep you from drifting where your morals and convictions are concerned. While the issue that's being addressed is purity, it's holiness that is the ultimate goal. So be praying that this month would be a turning point for those that need to reevaluate their view on sex and more importantly; that this would be a time where every student feels the need to draw closer to Christ and make Him the focal point of their entire lives.

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NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRY (1 CHRON 16:11)

In Christ,



Bruce Gust
Student Minister
New Hope Baptist Church