

WORTH — THE — WAIT

Facilitator's Guide

being an **anomaly** in an immoral world



TYLER **WALEA** AND KEN **GURLEY**

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Worth the Wait: An Anomaly in an Immoral World

by Tyler Walea and Ken Gurley

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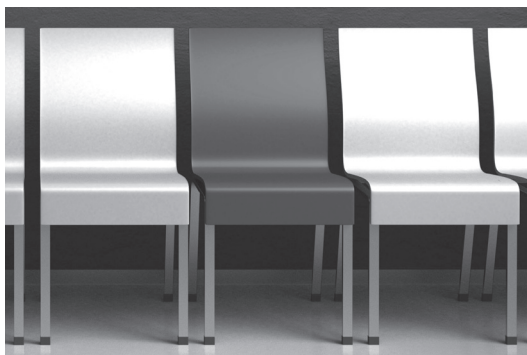
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	7
Chapter One – Who Turned out the Lights?	15
Chapter Two – The Case for Abstinence.....	17
Chapter Three – Resisting Temptation	19
Chapter Four – Dating . . . God’s Way.....	21
Chapter Five – Everyone’s Connected	23
Chapter Six – The Commitment to Be Different.....	25
Appendix – Conducting a Successful Commitment Service.....	27





WORTH THE WAIT



SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Purpose: *Worth the Wait* makes the case for a life of commitment to moral purity. This study can be used for any small group, but especially for those who are struggling with forming healthy relationships, making good choices, experiencing dating issues, or dealing with the fallout of sexual mistakes in their past.

Structure: There are six sessions in this study. Each of these six sessions corresponds to the six chapters of the book. Prior to each session, facilitators should view the video session and students should read the following sections of the book:



Worth the Wait Overview

Session One: Who Turned out the Lights?

Read the introduction and chapter one of the book before this meeting.

Session Two: The Case for Abstinence

Read chapter two of the book before this meeting.

Session Three: Resisting Temptation

Read chapter three of the book before this meeting.

Session Four: Dating . . . God's Way

Read chapter four of the book before this meeting.

Session Five: Everyone's Connected

Read chapter five of the book before this meeting.

Session Six: The Commitment to Be Different

Read chapter six and the closing comments before this meeting

Study Materials

This study utilizes the reimagined *Worth the Wait* material written by Tyler Walea and Ken Gurley. To use this material as a small-group study, each member of your group needs to have a copy of the book. As facilitator,



you will also need the DVD of the six video sessions and this guide.

Launching the Study

Small-group studies vary widely in methods. Several general considerations for launching this particular study are as follows:

- Prayerfully seek God's guidance concerning the group's composition and location. Continually ask God to open up the hearts and minds of participants.
- Some "small groups" can ironically grow very large, but this material works best with a smaller group (up to ten members) and not a medium-sized or larger group. It is highly likely that as this material is taught the results will attract more participants. Prayerfully consider how you will accommodate this interest either through more groups or modification of the sessions to permit new members.
- The room setting suggested is typical for small groups: a circular area that permits the participants to clearly see each other, the facilitator, and the DVD player/screen.
- As facilitator, you need to read the entire book in advance to absorb the lessons explored in each section. It is also recommended that you view the video sessions in entirety prior to the launch of the small group.
- Be certain that each member has purchased a



book and instruct the group to read chapters 1-3 of Section I prior to the first session. At the close of each session, instruct the students to read the chapters associated with the next session.

Conducting the Study

This curriculum is versatile enough to accommodate any particular pattern of small group study you may use. It is structured according to the following pattern:

1. Opening with prayer
2. Reading of select Scriptures
3. Viewing of video session
4. Discussion questions
5. Closing prayer.

*Please note: Session six follows a different format. The video is a full-length commitment service. You may choose to view the video or conduct a similar commitment ceremony on your own. See the appendix for more information and ideas on conducting a commitment service.

Small Group Concepts:

Additionally, these general tips for leading the group can assist in the flow of sessions:

- You may wish to assign the reading of Scriptures to different individuals. The book cites the King



James Version, but you may choose to use another accepted version.

- Read the discussion questions over each week and think through possible answers that may be given. Prepare to lead the conversation. Not all of the questions need to be covered. There may be ample and profitable discussion following one of the questions, and it is permissible to explore only one or two. Yet, if you do omit some questions, it may be profitable for you to make mention of them and give your responses. You may also choose to paraphrase the questions in a different format. It's important that you as the facilitator present the material in a way that feels authentic and not forced.
- As with all small group meetings, watch out for the "conversation hogs" in the discussion. Be prepared to call on others to respond. The silent ones often have wounds that haven't healed and desperately need to be involved in the discussion.
- Be prepared as well to deal with the "conversation hijackers" who will take the discussion into an unintended direction. Your direct engagement in the discussion is imperative to keep the meeting's focus.
- At the close of each meeting, reinforce the idea that although many struggle with the choices we are discussing, we are not alone and can share our struggles and commitments with group members.



A Word from the Authors:

Thank you for selecting *Worth the Wait* for use in your small group. This material is designed to equip participants with the knowledge to make choices that will help them to live morally pure lives. Due to the subject matter, your efforts are pivotal to guide the discussion while permitting each willing person the chance to participate, reflect, and ask questions on the material.

From the outset, it is important to help participants grow comfortable with the format to be followed and to become better acquainted with the participants in the group. Few individuals find themselves able and adept at expressing their innermost thoughts and feelings. The guilt of making bad choices sometimes restricts a person's best efforts to explain their sense of isolation, confusion, and hurt. If pressed too closely, those who could benefit the most from the study will fall away from the group. As facilitator, pray for a spirit of discernment and the gift of empathy to sense those who are struggling the most.

We hope something of merit can be found in the book and videos. We realize, however, that this material serves only as the launching pad for what can happen over the six sessions in your small group. The greatest insights will emerge when the Spirit leads you or someone else to minister to another member of the group. These moments of sanctified understanding will be the moments most remembered and valued. The book and videos are the catalysts for the process of healing and discovery endemic to small group ministry.

The good Samaritan was moved with great compassion when he saw the wounded man on the Jericho road. Others passed

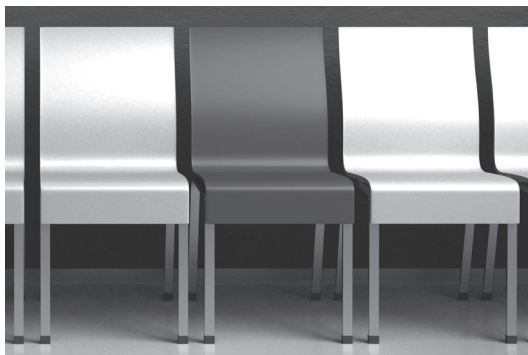


by with nonchalance and a business-as-usual attitude. But not this man. He determined to make a difference, and our Lord took note of his actions. May God witness your heartfelt efforts to assist someone making commitments of eternal value. As a facilitator for this group, may you help members turn from their past, choose purity in their present, and focus again on the new day awaiting them.



Session One

WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?



Chapter One

Objective: This session introduces the need for light to shine in the darkness of modern culture. The core concept is that society has one plan, but God has a much better plan.

Scripture Passages

John 3:16-21

Ephesians 5:8-16

Ephesians 6:12

Watch Session 1 Video:

Who Turned Out the Lights?



Discuss the following questions:

1. In John 3:19-20, what did Jesus tell Nicodemus is the reason human beings love darkness? Give real world examples that illustrate this.
2. In Ephesians 5:15-16, why does Paul tell us to redeem the time? What does “redeeming the time” look like in a modern context?
3. What is meant by the sentence, “Every twenty seconds, two lives are taken by abortion”?
4. How did Daniel choose to be an anomaly rather than flying below the radar? Could you have made the same decision?
5. When the darkness of culture begins to creep into our thinking, in what three directions do we tend to move? Why do you think this is the case?

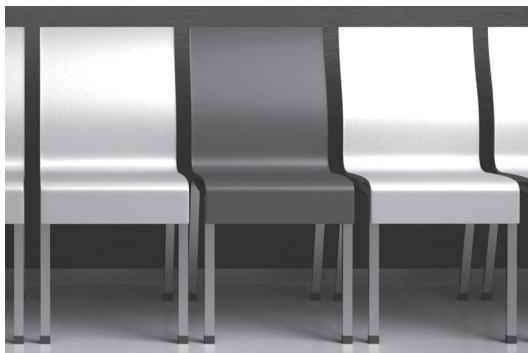
Assignment:

Read chapter 2 before the next session.



Session Two

THE CASE FOR ABSTINENCE



Chapter Two

Objective: This session covers the emotional, physical, and societal issues caused by a lack of abstinence. Young adults who make a commitment to abstinence combat these issues and affect their generation.

Scripture Passages

Lamentations 3:51

I Corinthians 6:18-20

Hebrews 13:4

I Peter 2:11-12

Watch Session Two Video:

The Case for Abstinence



Discuss the following questions:

1. How does one's eye affect one's heart, as presented in Lamentations 3:51? Discuss the ways that things we see affect our desires.
2. What is the meaning of this sentence: In a sick society where four-letter words are common, it's odd that the most uncomfortable word for many people has six letters: "virgin"? Why do you believe this is the case?
3. How did Elijah prove that being in the majority doesn't necessarily make it right?
4. What are five reasons why abstinence is a better choice?
5. What four things can help us live holy and "earth-free"? Why is it important to live "earth-free"?

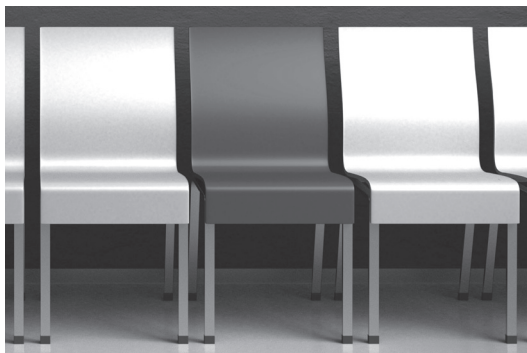
Assignment:

Read chapter 3 before the next session.



Session Three

RESISTING TEMPTATION



Chapter Three

Objective: This session points out the broad and varied assaults of temptation on the life of a Christian young adult. With God's help, we can follow a biblical plan to escape temptation and commit ourselves to live lives of purity.

Scripture Passages

James 1:12-15

I John 2:15-17

Colossians 3:1-10

Watch Session Three Video:

Resisting Temptation



Discuss the following questions:

1. According to Genesis 3:6, with what sense did Satan tempt Eve? Why do you think the senses are a primary approach that Satan uses to tempt humanity?
2. Since the Ten Commandments were not yet written, why did Joseph withstand the sexual advancement of Potiphar's wife?
3. What are the four steps of the Tempter's approach?
4. What, according to I John 2:16, are the three categories of temptations? Talk about an experience with one or more of these temptations.
5. What are five things we can try to help us resist Satan's temptations?

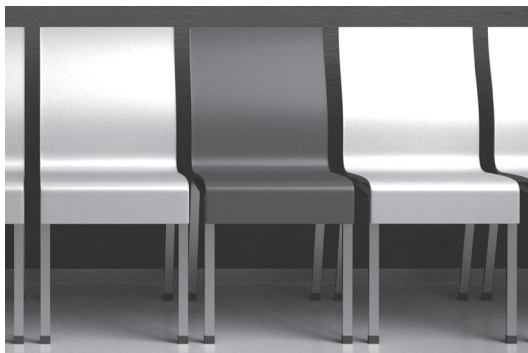
Assignment:

Read chapter 4 before the next session.



Session Four

DATING . . . GOD'S WAY



Chapter Four

Objective: Session four presents a godly alternative to the dating trends of modern society. It is possible to date and pursue relationships that please God yet still fulfill the varied emotional needs that come with being human.

Scripture Passages

Proverbs 4:14-17

I Corinthians 15:33

I Thessalonians 4:3-5

Watch Session Four Video:

Dating . . . God's Way



Discuss the following questions:

1. The book makes the statement, “I’m not going to marry everyone I date.” What does this mean, and how does it apply to our concept of dating?
2. Discuss the three types of dates detailed in this chapter.
3. Review the seven danger signals of an improper dating relationship. What have been your experiences with these?
4. What are the six rungs on the ladder of physical affection, starting with the bottom rung? Why do you think young adults often climb this ladder too quickly?
5. Discuss the ten ways we can suitably direct a date.

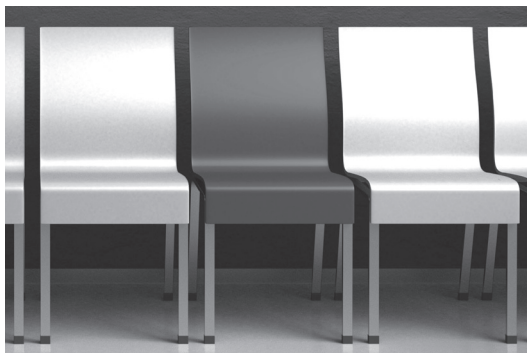
Assignment:

Read chapter 5 before the next session.



Session Five

EVERYONE'S CONNECTED



Chapter Five

Objective: This session deals with trends in modern communication, specifically our use of social media and electronic communication methods. Biblical standards are timeless and not only apply to every word we speak, but also to every word we type and every picture we post.

Scripture Passages

Luke 6:45

Jeremiah 17:9-10

I Corinthians 15:33

Watch Session Five Video:

Everyone's Connected



Discuss the following questions:

1. According to Luke 6:45, from what do our words overflow? What is responsible for the “abundance of our hearts”?
2. According to Jeremiah 17:9-10, what is deceitful above all things? What does that mean in a modern context?
3. What is meant by this statement: “It’s far easier to love God’s principles in theory than to live out God’s practices in reality”?
4. How does the story of Sanballat and Tobiah tell us that everybody who knows our name is not our friend? Talk about an experience with a false friend.
5. Are there any friends you need to unfollow, unfriend, and delete? Discuss a plan to edit your friend lists.

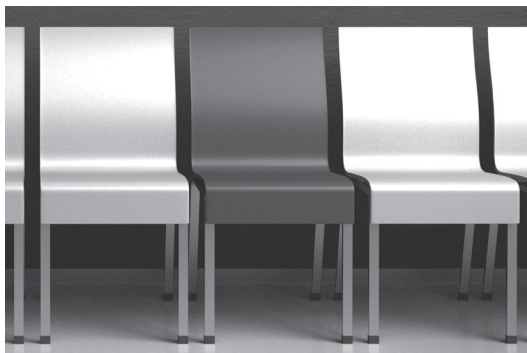
Assignment:

Read chapter 6 before the next session.



Session Six

THE COMMITMENT TO BE DIFFERENT



Chapter Six

Objective: This session is a full-length video commitment service. The purpose is to bring young adults to a point of decision and commitment regarding moral purity.

Scripture Passages

Ephesians 2:1-9

I Peter 2:9

II Corinthians 6:19-20

Watch Session Six Video:

The Commitment to Be Different



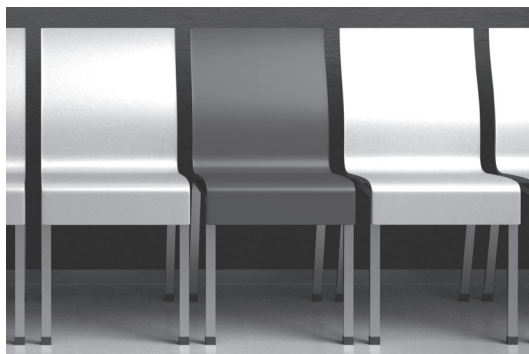
(Alternatively, you may choose to present the material live. See the appendix for guidance on this process.)

Rather than ending with questions, we suggest ending this session with a call to commitment and an extended time of prayer.



Appendix:

CONDUCTING A SUCCESSFUL COMMITMENT SERVICE



Session six could also be presented during a full youth service. If your youth group has several small groups going through the study, you could optionally bring them together for the final installment in a commitment service. This could be a live service or a combined group viewing of the final video session. Either way, conducting a *Worth the Wait* commitment service is a memorable event. You might make it a youth-only event or even consider including the parents of teens as well. Some churches might choose to combine youth groups for a larger audience. Here are a few suggestions if you choose to conduct such a service live.

Prepare thoroughly. The speaker should master the material completely such that little reliance is given to written notes. Eye contact is extremely important in communicating



sincerity. What you miss in details will be more than compensated by your conviction.

Assemble necessary visual aids. Media and promotional materials can be used to illustrate your main points and promote the event beforehand. Student handbooks, commitment forms, and other materials are available from the Pentecostal Publishing House.

Acquaint parents with material in advance. Prior to the presentation of *Worth the Wait* materials, it is sometimes helpful to apprise parents of the topics to be discussed. It may be helpful to have a parents' meeting beforehand. A time for questions and answers following can dispel any misunderstandings and can help parents reinforce what is being taught.

Target the audience. Since 90 percent of all sexually-active nineteen-year-olds had their first sexual encounter between ages eleven and thirteen, it would be advisable to include single youth from junior high through college age in your commitment service. Be sure to encourage your youth and young adults to invite a friend from school. This can be a remarkable evangelistic instrument.

Build up to the commitment service. There are five sessions before the commitment material at session six. It is impossible to teach these in a single session and retain their effectiveness. The options are many, but however you choose to study the sessions, be sure to promote far in advance to involve as many people as possible.

Make the service as special a night as possible!



1. A large-group commitment service should open with worship and prayer.
2. The speaker presents the commitment session.
3. An altar call or call to action is given.
4. General prayer is encouraged.
5. Pledge is made with blue ribbons.
6. Names of those making pledge are recorded.

After the commitment service. Following the commitment, there can be a special dinner with youth being the guests of honor. Or parents can be encouraged to take their teens to dinner and discuss the significance of this evening. This should be decided upon when you meet the parents.

Periodic follow-up. At least quarterly, follow-up materials and opportunity for discussion should be presented to your group. Annually, a recommitment service can be held by all who made the initial pledge. At that time, those who haven't made the pledge can join in.

Daily maintenance. Encourage your group to pray each day that God will be first in their lives, that they will seek to obey His will, that they will live morally pure lives, and that they will abstain from sex until marriage.

Dating maintenance. Encourage your youth to pray prior to each date that God will enable them to resist temptation and live holy lives. Remind your group of healthy and godly dating policies. Periodically review them in youth classes or services.



A Note of Caution in Dealing with Sexual Matters

Young adults are sometimes prone to discuss their personal sexual histories after lessons dealing with sex. For this reason, you might want to consider the following:

- Have reliable, spiritual personnel of both sexes on hand for prayer and support.
- Encourage youth to realize that, for spiritual purposes, the past—once it is addressed by Calvary—is the past. Since old things are passed away, their former lives shouldn't be resurrected through their conversation.
- Disallow open questions unless they are planned ahead as rhetorical devices or written down and previewed by facilitators/teachers prior to public reading.
- Know in advance what you will do should a minor speak about alleged sexual abuse. (This may need to be reported to local authorities. Check with your church's and state's guideline regarding this matter.)
- If your pastor has assigned you to teach these sessions, be certain that you review this material with him and get his input.

