



Summer 2005 *GOstudents.net* Bible Study

## Godly Guys in a Messed-Up World

### Materials:

- *GOstudents.net* Download Video: *What Guys Think About Girls*
- Computer, monitor or video projector to display video
- One copy of *GOstudents.net* Group Activity for “Godly Guys in a Messed-Up World” for each student
- Optional: Printouts of the *GOstudents.net* article called “What Guys Think.” You’ll find it through the “Hot Topics” section of *GOstudents.net* by clicking on “Roundtable.” (Or click this link in your PDF document: <http://www.gostudents.net/site/apps/nl/content2.asp?c=ejINI5PNKpG&b=692413&ct=901277>)



### Video Introduction:

Begin your study by explaining that today you’re going to talk about what it means to be a godly guy in a messed-up world. Before you do that, however, you’re going to watch a quick video that shows a few Christian guys describing their perspective on themselves, girls and relationships. The video is called *What Guys Think About Girls*. It’s 3 minutes, 14 seconds long, and it’s meant to get your students focused on some of the differences between guys and girls.

### Group Activity:

Hand out copies of the Group Activity sheet to each student. Explain that you’ll all be filling it out together as you work through the study. As you complete your discussion of each of the traits of a godly guy, encourage your students to write down the names of guys who fit the description. More on that below.

### Group Discussion:

Begin your discussion of what it means to be a godly guy by kicking around a few questions about guys, girls and godliness after this brief introduction: Now we’re going to move beyond what guys think about girls and focus on what it means to be a godly guy. Sometimes, it seems like those guys are harder and harder to find these days. But they’re out there.

- What percentage of guys in your school would you guess are trying to live like Jesus?

- How about the percentage of your own guy friends who care about being Christlike?
- Who do you think tends to care more about spiritual things, guys or girls? Why do you think that is?
- Girls: How important is it to you that the guy you date and/or marry cares about living a godly life?
- Guys: Same question.
- Girls: What does it mean to you for a guy your age to be living a godly life? Is it enough just for him to be a Christian and go to church? Or does it take more than that?
- Guys: What are some of the things that get in the way of living a godly life?

### **What Is a Godly Guy?**

Okay, now let's break it down. What's it mean to be godly? It just means that a person is willing to do what God wants him to do. We're told in Acts 13:22 that God said this about King David: "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." That's the most simple explanation of godliness.

Does that mean a guy has to be perfect all the time? No, or we couldn't find any examples of godliness. David was also famous for his sin. But he's more famous for following God closely. He was a warrior, a poet, good-looking, powerful and he cared deeply about living the life God called him to, especially when he was young.

Godly guys don't necessarily have to be weak, timid or unpopular. They've just got to put God first in every part of their lives. Here are a few qualities of godly guys.

#### **1. Be a loser and a follower.**

As negative and weak as that sounds, it's the first and most important step toward living like the men God wants guys to be. And when you realize who you're losing to and following, you'll see it takes a lot of courage.

Listen to what Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).



Being a godly guy starts with surrendering to the strongest and most godly man ever to walk the planet. It means "losing" our right to set the course for our own lives. Instead, we're called to follow Jesus' path, to die to ourselves and to find a life that really matters in His footsteps.

It's more than just being a Christian; it's total commitment to the way of Jesus. Full submer-  
sion. My life out; His life in. Period. I'm a Christ-follower.

On the Activity sheet I gave you, write down the names of two or three guys who seem to  
have lost their personal plans for their lives and made the commitment to follow Jesus any-  
where He leads. These could be guys your age all the way up to your grandparents' age.  
Think about men in your family, in this church, in your neighborhood.

## **2. Be a winner and a leader.**

Did that give you a little whiplash? Sounds like a contradiction, but it's not. Once they're  
totally committed to the path of Jesus, God wants guys who will gain great victories in the  
world and lead others onto Jesus' path.

Here's what one of Jesus' first followers said about it: "This is love for God: to obey his  
commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes  
the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:3-4).

God wants men who win in their battle to live like Jesus. It's a fight; it's hard work. You fall  
down sometimes. But if you are committed to Jesus and getting your power from the Holy  
Spirit, you will win. When you fail, you will get up again and keep fighting.

And after doing it for a while, you will become a leader. Here's a little secret: You're  
already a leader, guys. You already have influence. It's just a question of what you do with  
it. Remember what Paul said to a young guy named Timothy about leadership: "Don't let  
anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in  
speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

We've got enough Christian guys willing to let the girls set the example and take the lead in  
spiritual things. God wants godly guys to step up and set the pace as they follow Jesus.  
Another secret: A lot of Christian girls are looking for the same thing in the guys in their  
lives.

On your sheets, write the names of two or  
three men in your lives who are real lead-  
ers in spiritual things. By the way, you  
won't have to show your sheets to anyone  
unless you want to, so feel free to be hon-  
est.

## **3. Be a lover.**

Careful here. We're not talking about being  
a player. We're still talking about godly  
guys who follow Jesus. And what did Jesus  
do? He loved people with a very specific



kind of love. Guys who get married are called to follow Jesus in how He loved all of us.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25). How did Christ love the church? He died. He sacrificed everything. He courageously allowed Himself to be beaten, mocked and crucified before the church (that’s us) even cared. That’s what it means to love like Jesus.

But you don’t have to wait to be married, guys, to start loving that way. In fact, if you do wait, you won’t be very good at it when you do get married. You can start practicing that love that dies for others today with your parents, siblings, classmates, anyone in your life. And if they’re really hard to love, even better!

Here’s one definition of that kind of love: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Write down the names of two or three godly guys who seem to be really good at sacrificial love for others, maybe especially their wives. If you can, try to think of men you haven’t already named.

#### **4. Be a runner.**

If you really want to stand out as a godly guy these days, try being sexually pure in your words, attitudes and actions. Try being sexually pure when you’re on the computer, in the locker room, on a date or anywhere it’s normal for guys to be less than pure.

If you’re a guy, you know it’s not easy. There’s a popular book called *Every Man’s Struggle*. And that’s what it is: a struggle for every guy. You’re not weird if it’s tough for you to deal with. But you’re a godly guy if you stand up and fight against it. God’s standard is sky high: “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality” (Ephesians 5:3).



Paul said you’ve got to show yourself no mercy in this battle. Use lethal force: “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires” (Colossians 3:5).

The best strategy? Run! “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Again, godly guys aren't perfect. They slip. They fail. But they don't give up the fight. And they don't pretend that sexual immorality is okay. They set their standard as high as God sets it for them.

It's tough to know if a guy is winning the battle for sexual purity, but if you do know a man or two who seem to be examples of that, write their names down.

## 5. Be humble.

In the video we watched, the guys admitted that a major issue for lots of men is pride. Pride can keep a guy from being honest about what he's thinking or feeling. Even being honest with ourselves about our own failures is tough when we're too proud.

In fact, pride stands in the way of everything we've talked about today. A proud guy has trouble being humble enough to give up his own way and follow Jesus. A proud guy doesn't want to be vulnerable by talking about his love for Jesus or telling someone else how they can follow God. Pride and love don't mix, either, because we have to lay down our pride to give love away. And pride can lead guys to think they're too strong to lose the battle to sexual immorality, which can make them even more vulnerable to giving in to temptation. Pride is a big problem.

Peter wrote that guys should do this: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6). But how do we "humble ourselves"?

Well, humility mostly involves admitting that we need help from God and giving up our desire to look like we can handle everything on our own. These are self-humbling actions you can do every day:

- Ask God for help.
- Thank Him for every good thing in your life.
- Thank your parents, teachers, friends, etc. for the good things they do for you.
- Give away praise to other people, especially other guys, when they do something well.
- Tell others about Jesus, even if you have to risk looking foolish.

Can you think of some humble guys in your life? Remember, they might be strong, powerful leaders. They're just honest enough to show their need for God and other people. Write down two or three names if you think of them.

### Group Discussion:

Before finishing this lesson, take a few minutes to ask just the girls some questions:



- How many guys your own age do you know who are trying to live like this? How many older guys or men with families?
- When you're looking for guy friends, how important is it to you that they are trying to live godly lives? Why?
- If you were deciding on someone to go out with, what's the most important thing you're looking for? Why?
- Do you think of godly guys as weak, boring or uncool? Why?

### **Conclusion:**

Close with this challenge to your guys.

Guys, it really doesn't matter what girls think of your decision to try to live like Jesus. Women of honor will respect you for it. Some girls might mock you for it. But you don't choose a life of godliness to make any woman happy. We all choose to follow Jesus because it's the only life that makes sense. His path is the only one worth following.

Still, we need more men willing to take the lead on that path. We need more teen guys willing to show the rest of us how to follow Jesus by their examples. Will you be one of those guys? Here's an idea. Look over the names you wrote on your sheet. Think about asking one of the older guys there to mentor you as you follow Jesus' path. And think about asking some of the guys your own age to get together with you for Bible study, prayer and accountability. You'll be stronger walking together than alone.

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to show us the perfect example of what it means to be a godly guy in a messed-up world. Ask God to give the guys in your room the courage to follow Jesus no matter what it costs them. Ask, also, that the girls would choose to be godly women and to look for godly guys in their friendships.

As they leave, remind your students that they can check out another interview with a group of Christian guys online at [GOstudents.net](http://GOstudents.net). They'll find it in the "Hot Topics" Roundtables section by clicking on "What Guys Think."