

## DAY 7

Check in with God Daily. Confess | Proclaim | Learn | Adjust

### Connection Passage - Amos 7:1-15; 8:1-9:15

How can you apply to your life what you read today? How can this help you overcome sexual sin?

**A Plumb line** is an instrument used to make sure that a wall is vertically straight otherwise it will collapse. God's Word is our plumb line. God said He set a "**plumb line**" for Israel and if they didn't listen they would fall. Read 1Corinthians 13:4-7 below and ask yourself if this is God's plumb line for how we are to love. **How sturdy is your wall? What do you need to do to true up your wall of love for others?**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

**Restoration is God's plan.** Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden, it has always been His plan. Jesus' coming to this earth and dying for our sins was God's ultimate plan of restoration and salvation for all men who believed in Him. How do you think God wants to restore you and your life from the damage of sexual lust? Do you believe He can/will? Why?

### The Challenge

Whether you've been a pastor or prisoner, your challenge is to have a genuine walk with God. You can fake others out, but you can't fake God out! Colossians 3:1-4 shows us a few ways to have a genuine walk of holiness. Write down your response to these verses. *"You have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

*4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

*6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

You get to talk with Creator/Savior/Lord/Almighty God right now!

Talk with Him about what you're learning and how you can serve Him best.

## TRANSFORMATION

### OLD TESTAMENT Joel/Jonah/Amos



## Connecting with God

Stand in awe...

## DAY 1

Check in with God - Confess | Learn | Adjust

Talk with God about your last 24 hrs. Confess your wrongs and declare your victories. Learn from these and make adjustments to avoid the wrongs and repeat the victories.

Passage - Joel 1:1-7 (A taste of judgment); 2:12-32 (repentance & God's deliverance)

Joel is the first of the minor prophets to Judah around 835 BC. Elisha was on the scene at the same time prophesying a similar message to the northern kingdom of Israel.

Joel's message to southern kingdom of Judah was that sin brings judgment, but in God's justice there is also great mercy! Peter quotes Joel in his address to the crowd on the day of Pentecost after God's Spirit had been poured out to all (Acts 2:16-21).

The people of Judah HAD BECOME self-centered idolaters. They took God for GRANTED!  
**What does it look like in someone's life to take God for GRANTED?**

**How can you show that you don't take God for GRANTED in your life?**

Joel's warning of God's judgment on the people of Judah had no real impact. In 250 years, their nation would fall as a result of their sin. The locust plague was just a taste of the destruction to come. The people thought they were getting away with it.

**Are you listening to the warnings God is giving you in order to avoid future destruction in your life? Why or why not?**

### The Challenge

Your life story is being written right now. It will be up to you how you pursue Jesus and how you finish your race. Your legacy will be determined by how you spend your time, what you think about most, and if you heed God's words to you. **Tell God in a short note today about your desire to listen and obey Him.**

### Connect with God Intimately Today!

Talk with Him about your deep fears and wayward thinking that could destroy you...

## DAY 6

The Most Freeing Part of Your Day! - Confess | Proclaim | Learn | Adjust

Connection Passage - Amos 3:7-4:13; 5:6-6:1

Yesterday, Amos announced God's judgment on Israel because of their sin. In today's reading, he is proclaiming the reasons for the judgments. **What were your takeaways from Amos today?**

V3:10 tells us that the Israelites "no longer knew how to do what was right." The longer they stayed in their sin, the harder it became to remember how God wanted them to live. How does that contrast with Psalm 119:9 below?

***"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word."***

Here are three of the most important steps you can take in defeating sin in your life.

**1) Knowing the Word 2) A desire to live by the Word deeply in your soul. 3) Then living by the Word.** Where are you at in each of these "3" areas?

1)

2)

3)

God tells how He disciplined His people "5" times in verses 4:6, 8, 9, 10, 11 trying to warn them to turn from their sin so worse things wouldn't happen. Yet, they refused to listen to Him, and about 30 years later, worse things eventually happened.

**List below what God has been warning you about and how you will respond.**

### The Challenge

"**Seek the Lord and live**" is basically stated "3" times in 5:4, 6 & 14. In Matthew 6:33, God said, "**Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...**" I don't think these scriptures could be any clearer! GOD is telling us how to have our best life! Why do you not do this? Why don't you heed His warnings of the consequences of sin? Why? Why do I still not follow Him at times after 35 years and 25,000 plus hours of reading, studying, memorizing, and reflecting on His Word? Why? Today your challenge is to sit and think deeply about this and how to heed His warnings more consistently.

### Appreciate Today You can Sit and Talk with a Personal God

Talk with Him about how much He loves you even when you don't heed His warnings.

## DAY 5

Check in with God! Take 5 Minutes to... Confess | Proclaim | Learn | Adjust

### Connection Passage - Amos 1:1-2:16

**Jonah's life was ending** and Amos' ministry was beginning. For the next 38 years, Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah warned Israel & Judah to turn from their sins or experience God's judgment. Amos and Hosea primarily spoke to Israel, Micah preached to both, and Isaiah prophesied directed to Judah. **What a team!**

Amos also shares God's promise to restore the Davidic line, their land, and the Temple. **Are you taking heed of God's warnings to you?** You may not lose your salvation because of your sin, but you will miss out on the experience of walking with God intimately! You'll miss the peace of a clear conscience. Take 5 minutes, close your eyes and ask God how you're pleasing HIM. Write down **what HE impressed up you.**

From the dictionary, define the word: WARNING

Read the scriptures below:

**6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did...** The consequences of "these things" were: Israel committed sexual immorality and 23,000 people died; they tested the Lord and were killed by snakes; they grumbled and were killed by a destroying angel. **11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us...** 1Corinthians 10:6-11

God mercifully warns us to save us from the consequences of our sin. In His Word, He tells us how to live and how to have peace in a world that is filled with temptations and trials! If we don't heed His warnings, discipline and consequences are the result. Read Hebrews 12:11 below, and think about the heart of God and the goal of His discipline to us:

**"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."**

Why did God give us the Old Testament according to 1Corinthians above?

God warns us not to be sexually immoral. But if we disobey, there will be consequences and discipline. When God disciplines us, what does He want it to produce in you?

What is one way that God trains us? Do you feel like you're being trained how to live a life of sexual integrity? Describe what that looks like.

The Challenge Today - Heed God's warnings and avoid unwanted consequences.

### Talk with God

Talk with Him about your desire to heed His warnings and the help you will need.

## DAY 2

Form this Daily Habit with God - Confess... Learn... Adjust

### Connection Passage - Joel 2:28-3:21

The Minor Prophets can be confusing and hard to understand. When you read them, look for what you easily understand. Many prophecies have three fulfillments 1) Current 2) Ongoing and 3) Future or Final. Through out them we learn of Gods SOVEREIGNTY.

**What is the Dictionary definition of SOVEREIGNTY?**

**What is the Dictionary definition of OMNISCIENCE?**

**What is the Dictionary definition of OMNIPRESENT?**

**God is all of these** - sovereignty, omniscience, and omnipresent! We see all of these qualities in Him in today's reading. What effect do these have on how you choose to live and why?

God is also the judge of the entire world, and He has called each of us to tell the people of the earth about Him, His judgment, and salvation in Jesus. Currently, there are about eight billion' people on this planet. Have you kept this mission as a priority in your life or have you felt this is the job of pastors, churches, or people who are more spiritual? Why do you think you have thought this way?

### The Challenge

**Your challenge today** is to think about how your mission as an **"Ambassador of God"** could help you overcome the sexual sin you have been battling in your life. Why is this lesson today necessary to have a fulfilled life? An abundant life? Read John 10:10.

Spend time with the Living & Loving Savior... Jesus

## DAY 3

**Practice these Principles Every Morning!!** Confess | Learn | Adjust

### Connection Passage - Jonah 1:1-2:10

Jonah is a whale of a story! Jesus mentions Jonah in Matt 12:38-42 as a **type & shadow** of His death, burial, and resurrection. Jonah is often thought of as a children's story but it's one that **many adults** have never learned to live out. It's a true story of God's heart of love, compassion, mercy and call to repentance for the most ruthless of Israel's enemies. This story shows us no one is beyond redemption and that **forgiveness & grace** are two of the most important principles we need to exercise as Christians.

Unforgiveness can be what's keeping you stuck in your sin! **Who in your life doesn't deserve to be forgiven? Forgiving them may be what it will take to soften their heart of stone.** What will forgiving them do for you?

**Jonah ran from God!** What are you running from? What do you not want to face? Think hard about this! Then list two reasons below that God is impressing on you to deal with:

- 1.
- 2.

Does our sin affect others according to 1:8? How will your sin affect others if you continue to run and avoid dealing with it?

**Jonah sets an example for us in 1:12.** It may be one of the most important recovery tools in your tool box. What is it?

### The Challenge

Jonah had a rebellious attitude and was unwilling to follow God's plan for him. His recovery began with his willingness to do "**whatever**" was necessary to right his wrongs. Are you willing to do "**whatever**" you need to do in order to become a man of sexual integrity? Why or why not?

Jonah made a profound statement from the belly of a big fish in 2:8. It says,

**"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."**

Sexual sin on the surface is exciting and makes us feel good for the moment. It alters our moods. It helps us escape pain. But what benefit do you really get from your sin? Is it worth the cost? What are you forfeiting? Pray about this!

### The Best Part of Your Day... Talking with Almighty God!

Talk with Him about your willingness to surrender your life to Him, then rest in His arms.

## DAY 4

**Check in with God Daily** - Confess Sin | Proclaim Victories | Learn | Adjust

### Connection Passage - Jonah 3:1-4:11

What did God impress on you as you read the book of Jonah over the last few days? (We use the word "impress" to represent one of the ways God speaks to His kids.)

**Our actions are more important than our words.** Why? Our **actions** reveal where our heart is really at. An exception could be when we are first trying to change those old actions. Read Jonah 3:10. How does this scripture illustrate the principle above?

What are your "actions" revealing about you? To yourself? To your wife? To God?

**God doesn't need to see our actions to figure out where we're at! But our actions of repentance must happen before GOD can release His grace, compassion, and forgiveness on our lives. Ask your wife or others around you if they see real change taking place! This may be more accurate than how you feel.**

### The Challenge

We serve a God of miracles! He performed at least "6" miracles in the book of Jonah.  
1) He caused a storm 2) He sent a big fish to swallow Jonah 3) He commanded the fish to spit Jonah out 4) He made a vine grow 5) He provided a worm to kill the vine 6) God sent a scorching wind. **What was God's purpose in all these miracles? What can you learn from them?**

In the last sentence of Jonah, God shows that He is concerned about the salvation of all people, even a wicked nation like Nineveh. Jonah was not! How about you? Do your **actions** show the concern you have for the lost? **Why is this important for your recovery?**

### Reflect: You get to sit in God's Presence and be Surrounded by His Holiness!

Talk with God about why He has chased after you like He did Jonah. Why did God choose you and WANT you to be His child to live with Him eternally? Ask Him...