

THE GASLINE

FEBRUARY 2018

Newsletter for
the parents of:
JOURNEY
students

MARCH 23-24

Forms are on
the website
and available
on Wednesday
Nights.

DISCIPLE
NOW
WEEKEND

WANGAL
440

OPEN
HOUSE
& PARENT MEETING
SUNDAY MARCH 4TH

Mission Trip for High School
and a local missions event
for Middle School.

dates
coming
soon

OPPORTUNITIES
MISSIONS
THIS SUMMER



To receive text updates on the Student Ministry:
Parents text "jsm-parent" to 81010
Students text "ism-peeps" to 81010



DEAR PARENTS

Our first Wednesday in the Hangar will be on March 7th. Once we begin using that building we can no longer keep tabs on students who are in the gym. We are asking you to help us encourage/enforce ALL students using the Hangar facilities exclusively on Wednesday nights. We will have measures in place to keep everyone safe and accounted for if they are inside or outside the Hangar as long as they don't leave the back parking lot area. Thank you for your help and understanding.

In the sex-crazed culture of today, this question still begs to be answered. "Can we really expect teens to avoid pre-marital sex?"

The real answer to the question may, in large part, depend on who you ask. Or on what we believe to be true about sex, and where our ideas are founded. In a world that says sex before marriage is "normal and expected," anything else is viewed as ancient and archaic thinking. "Did God really say..." the voices of our culture ask, lured by the same familiar voice that confronted Eve in the garden one fateful day. "Surely He did not mean..." Doubts start to rise and overshadow truth. We feel pressured to try and rationalize behavior or choices in order to find acceptance and update our thinking. To get with the times. To be more "relevant" for today.

Though the Bible speaks with great clarity about the dangers of sex outside marriage, some still argue that if they're in a "consensual, loving relationship," it should be "OK" to have sex. And many will. But many others will choose to wait.

No matter what we hear in the latest headlines or see in top Hollywood movies, the truth that no one's really talking about is this: **not everyone is saying "yes" to sex before marriage.** Many teens, and young adults, are choosing to wait for marriage and they're setting new trends.

Recent statistics show that the number of teens participating in sex has dramatically decreased over the last years, in fact it is lower now than 20 years ago. An article from U.S. News this past year stated, "Teens today are having less sex than their parents were at the same age, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC data released Wednesday show dramatic decreases in teen sexual activity since 1988, when the rate was 22 percent higher among males and 14 percent higher among females."

This may be attributed to the fact that families are talking. Conversations are happening, discussions on tough topics. Truth is being shared. Parents are praying. Young people are choosing to respect themselves and others. They are feeling empowered to say "no," instead of being pressured into saying "yes." They are believing God's words to be true and are choosing to stand strong against the lies of the enemy.

And really, maybe the questions we should be asking are these:

- Who will we choose to listen to?
- Who will our kids listen to?
- The lies of our world and media messages?
- Or the Truth that sets us free?

Raising kids in a world saturated with sex and technology demands more attention than ever from parents. **Whether or not we decide to talk openly and honestly with our kids, our culture certainly will.** It's been talking, already, straight to hearts and minds, for a very long time. And as we know, it has quite a lot to say - about sex. The good news is, we're not alone. God has a lot to say about sex too. After all, He created it. And it seems that the soundest of wisdom would come straight from the One who thought it all up.

Many people falsely believe that the Bible is only a bunch of rules meant to restrict our fun and happiness. But God's Word is what gives safe boundaries to live by. Christ came so that we can live abundant, full lives. And the only way to truly live that out is by living according to His words.

He came to set free, not to enslave us to a standard we could never live up to. The lie says that we are most free when we're just doing our own thing, living how we choose. But the truth is, we're enslaved, living captive to sin, and we can never fully escape those chains of temptation and defeat outside of His power and strength.

His Word isn't based on changing trends. It doesn't shift with the latest hot topics. It isn't an old fashioned book with little significance for today. It doesn't speak in shades of gray but with clarity and wisdom. It is living and active, relevant for our culture, even in this technology driven, sex-saturated world. Because our God never changes. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Sex is a gift. And the best gifts in life often come with the greatest cautions. Enjoying this gift within the boundaries of marriage, the way that God intends, is worth the wait... Always.

Adapted from an article by Debbie McDaniel on Crosswalk.com. She is a writer, pastor's wife, mom to three amazing kids (and a lot of pets). Join her each morning on Fresh Day Ahead's facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/DebbieWebbMcDaniel>, for daily encouragement in living strong, free, hope-filled lives. Find her also at <http://twitter.com/debbmcdaniel>.