

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

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Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, Biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series is exactly what you're looking for.

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete sermon outlines and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR *Live Differently*

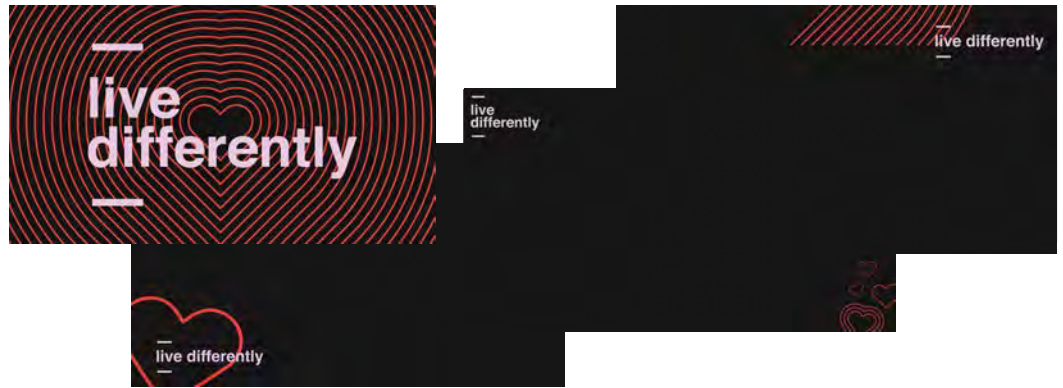
Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized culture. But the Bible challenges your students to embrace God's view of sex and sexuality, to rise above the message of culture and to instead live holy lives. *Live Differently* will teach your students God's intent for sex and how God views sex outside of this intent, and it will challenge your students with God's call to live a life of holiness in a world of sexual immorality.

- **SESSION 1:** To help students place the discussion of sex and sexuality within the context of God's ways versus the world's ways.
- **SESSION 2:** To help students know exactly what the Bible means when it defines sexual immorality.
- **SESSION 3:** To help students understand the definition of holiness and what it means to pursue holiness with their lives.
- **SESSION 4:** To challenge students with the call to stand up for Christ at all costs in an effort to point others toward Him.

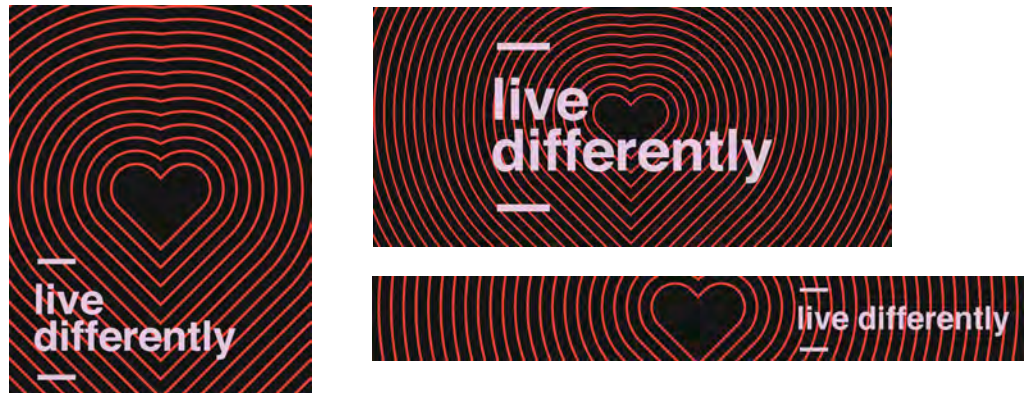
BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

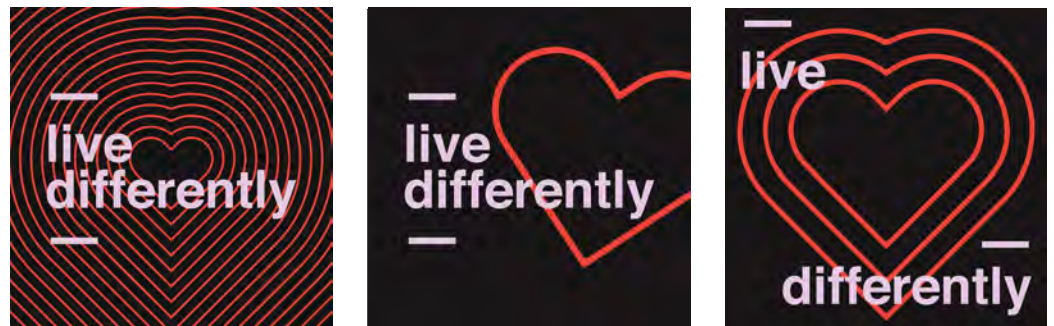
BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



INSTAGRAM IMAGES



LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

Live Differently Sermon Series Overview

The Sermon Series Overview is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to preach.

- **Session 1 Purpose:** To help students place the discussion of sex and sexuality within the context of God's ways versus the world's ways.
- **Scripture Passage:** 1 John 5:19, John 1:10-11, James 4:4, Colossians 3:5, 1 John 5:4-5, John 16:33
- **Session Snapshot:** This session will help you introduce what *Live Differently* is all about, but more importantly you have the chance to help students grasp the conflict between God's ways and the world's ways. In this way, you won't focus as much on sex and sexuality, but will instead focus on the specifics of why the world's ways are opposed to God's ways.

Details on *Live Differently* Sermon Series Outlines

Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized culture. And while sexual immorality is an almost timeless struggle, the world your students live in seems to take the glamorization of sex to unprecedented levels. Culture calls teenagers to live a life where sexual activity and sexual expression is a vital part of their identity. But the Bible challenges your students to embrace God's view of sex and sexuality, to rise above the message of culture and to instead live holy lives. In short, the Bible calls your students to Live Differently.

Live Differently will teach your students God's intent for sex and how God views sex outside of this intent. Most importantly, *Live Differently* will help you challenge your students with God's call to live a life of holiness in a world of sexual immorality.

Live Differently covers the following purposes and passages:

- **Session 1:** To help students place the discussion of sex and sexuality within the context of God's ways versus the world's ways.
- **Session 2:** To help students know exactly what the Bible means when it defines sexual immorality.
- **Session 3:** To help students understand the definition of holiness and what it means to pursue holiness with their lives.
- **Session 4:** To challenge students with the call to stand up for Christ at all costs in an effort to point others toward Him.

How To Use the *Live Differently* Sermon Series

This sermon series outline is designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. It provides various elements such as suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you will need to prepare your lesson. It also includes discussion questions that could be used in a small group following the message and artwork for promotion or message support.

These sermons are designed to be useful for all types of groups and churches, and you should feel free to make adjustments that benefit your particular circumstance.

I. Intro

- a. Imagine that someone who had never been to our country, never seen our culture, was suddenly dropped into our city. Imagine he or she walked around the mall, listened to popular music, hung out on the Internet looking at popular websites and social media, watched a handful of movies and TV shows, and paid attention to the advertisements he or she saw in store fronts and on billboards. Then, imagine he or she was asked to say what the things he or she saw said about our culture.
- b. It wouldn't take long before he or she mentioned sex and sexuality. Our culture, the world you live in, is saturated in sexual images and messages. Everywhere you turn there is an ad, or a movie, or a TV show, or a song that features some sort of sexualized message. The statistics on porn viewership in our country are through the roof. We are a culture that glorifies sex.
- c. The problem is that much of what is said and communicated about sex goes completely opposite to what God says about sex and sexuality that is right and good in His eyes.
- d. As God's children, we're called to be like God, having His same attitude and outlook on things. Especially when it comes to our sexual morals.
- e. But to have God's same attitude, we must know it. And that's what *Live Differently* is all about. Over the next few sessions, you're going to learn exactly what God says about sex and how you can shape your life to identify with God and not the world around you.
- f. It's going to be a great time. Let's get started.

II. Teaching Point 1: The world around us often goes directly against God, especially as it pertains to sex and sexuality.

- a. We often use the concept of "the world" to talk about the parts of our world, culture, and society that go against God and God's ways. It's simply a way of contrasting the ways of God versus the ways of the world. Biblical writers used this terminology, too. And it's how you're going to look at how the world's thoughts on sex go against God's thoughts on sex.
- b. We'll be looking at a few verses for each of our points today in an effort to show how comprehensively Scripture speaks to the subject. The first passage we'll be looking at is 1 John. Instruct students to turn to 1 John 5:19.
 - i. Here's a little context for the book. John was one of Jesus' disciples. John wrote this letter as an old man, roughly 60 years after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.
- c. **Read 1 John 5:19 aloud.** This passage describes the difference between God's ways and the world's ways.
 - i. We know that there are two forces at work in our world: good and evil. God is good and Satan is evil. God's ways in all things flow out of His character. And the same can be true of the world. As we consider how the world often portrays sex and sexuality, it's important to realize that this separation is true and real.

- d. **Instruct students to turn to John 1:10-11 and read verses 10-11 as you read it aloud.**
 - i. John is talking about how Jesus came to our world but those apart from God didn't recognize Him as who He truly was: God's only son. Jesus came first to the Jews. But even though the entire history of the Jews pointed toward the moment when the Messiah would come, many didn't recognize Him.
- e. The world still refuses to recognize God, doesn't it? Especially as it pertains to sex and sexuality. So much of what we see around us when it comes to sex flies in the face of God's view of sex that is good and right. And yet, the world doesn't acknowledge that what it advocates is wrong or undesirable.

III. Illustration: Rivalries

- a. Think about some of the great rivalries in our culture. (*Consider using some or all of the following list of rivalries (and even adding your own, especially if there are sports rivalries unique to your community or geographic region)*):
 - i. Big sports rivalries include Green Bay Packers and the Minnesota Vikings, Auburn University and the University of Alabama, The University of Michigan and the Ohio State University, the Red Sox and the Yankees, Liverpool and Manchester United, and so on.
 - ii. Other rivalries include: cats and dogs, Coke and Pepsi, iPhone and Android, pop music and country music, etc.
- b. The fun thing about rivalries is how different the two sides are from each other, or at least how different they perceive themselves to be. You can't casually be on one side of a big rivalry. You choose your side knowingly, identifying strongly with one side and strongly against the other.
- c. The world's ways and God's ways are two sides of an epic rivalry that has played out for thousands and thousands of years and will continue to do so until Christ returns. The difference between this rivalry and the ones listed above is that there is life-or-death importance involved with being on the right side.

IV. Transition Statement:

- a. Because we're God's children, we are identified with Him and not the world. We must pattern our own morals and actions after God's character.

V. Teaching Point 2: As Christ-followers, we must choose to follow God's ways or the world's ways. We can't do both.

- a. Instruct students to turn to James 4:4.
 - i. James was Jesus' brother and the leader of the church in Jerusalem. James is a very practical book, and this verse is no exception.
- b. **Read James 4:4 aloud.** This passage describes the tension between the fact that we live in this world, a world that is mostly opposed to God and His ways, but we must choose to follow Christ.
 - i. **What does James mean when he talks about loving the world? We love the world through our actions and our attitudes. We love the world when we identify with the world and its values and views. The only thing is that we can't love both the world around us and God. It's just not possible.**

- ii. When we adopt the world's views on sex and sexuality, when we engage in sex outside of marriage, when we listen to songs or watch movies or videos that are sexually charged or graphic, we are acting as if we are a friend of the world.
- c. **Read aloud Colossians 3:5.** Paul addresses this very thing. Paul makes the distinction between the things of this earth—another way of talking about the concept of the world—and the things of God. And among the list of things that he identifies as worldly is sexual impurity and lust. It's clear: we have to be diligent in choosing to follow God's ways when it comes to sex and sexuality and not the world's ways.

VI. Illustration: Why Not?

- a. There's an interesting question we can ask of James' words in 4:4: Why not? Why can't we love the world and God?
- b. Imagine you and your friends are riding together to go grab a bite for dinner. As you're leaving, you say to your friend, "Oh, I know the best way to the restaurant. Turn right." But your friend looks at you like you're crazy. "Turn left, you mean. Left is definitely the best way." The two of you share your respective opinions on why each other's way is NOT the best way. After a few minutes, you can reach no conclusion. So, you divide the car in half down the middle. One of you turns right in your half of the car and the other turns left. This is how this kind of thing works, right?
- c. *Of course* this isn't how this type of thing works. The idea that you could split a car in half and go two different directions is absurd. Everyone knows this would defy the laws of physics. You can't go two different directions at once. In our little imaginary scenario, someone had to give in. The car had to go one way or another. If not, it would simply sit there. You'd never get to dinner. The same is true with our lives. We can't follow God's ways and the world's ways. If we try, our lives will go nowhere.

VII. Transition Statement:

- a. God doesn't provide us with the option of doing it our way, or the world's way. To live as Christ-followers, we have to actually follow Christ (funny how that works.) We know from experience that this truth leads to tough choices. But, this final teaching point should give us great hope.

VIII. Teaching Point 3: Standing against the world may be a challenge, but you're not alone. And in the end, you win.

- a. Turn back to 1 John, this time to 1 John 4:4-5. **Read 1 John 4:4-5 aloud.** John is assuring Christ-followers that though it is a challenge, ultimately anyone who has come to saving faith in Christ will ultimately win out. The Bible tells us that Jesus has fought our battles for us. He has gone ahead of us. And in the end, we know that Jesus prevails. It can be really, really tough to make a stand for your faith, especially when it comes to sex and sexuality. But God promises to be there for us. You're not alone.
- b. **Read John 16:33.** Jesus wants us to identify with Him publicly through the way we live our lives. That means that we will have a hard time. But look at what a promise Jesus makes. Jesus has overcome the world on our behalf. You don't have to have the burden of feeling like it's you against everyone else. Sure you may be one of the only one of your friends who stands up for

what they believe in when it comes to sex. But Jesus says, “don’t worry, I’ve got this.” That should give us all incredible hope and comfort.

IX. Illustration: Not Alone

- a. Share the story of Kenyan marathoner Jacqueline Kiplimo. If you’d like to support this with an image, simply do a Google image search for “Jacqueline Kiplimo marathon.”
- b. In 2010, Kiplimo was running the Zheng-Kai marathon in China when she noticed a disabled runner having trouble hydrating himself. At the time, Kiplimo was in a group of five women who were all in contention to win the marathon.
- c. What Kiplimo did next was extremely selfless. Seeing the disabled runner struggling to hydrate himself, Kiplimo stayed with the runner for what some reports say was over a mile. (Show the picture.) As the picture shows, Kiplimo enabled her fellow runner to continue to run despite his disabilities; in a sport where time is everything, she allowed him to continue running. Even though her generosity cost her (she would finish in second place and lose roughly \$10,000 in prize money), she has said in repeated interviews that she wouldn’t do anything differently if she had the chance to do it again.
- d. Running a marathon is one of the most challenging tasks an individual can do. For this courageous Chinese runner, the task was made even more difficult by his disabilities. But in his moment of need, he was helped out by the kindness of a fellow runner.
- e. When it comes to the difficult task of standing up for our faith, we don’t have to do it alone. We have help. God is with us.

X. CLOSING: Personal Challenge

- a. Take a moment to close your session with a personal challenge for students. Challenge them to make the most of what they’ve been challenged by. Help them understand that they will only learn and be changed if they are willing to. Challenge students to put themselves in the mindset to be moved by God and to be changed by knowing and applying His Word in their lives.

Small-Group Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your sermon, or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to help students think critically about the sermon and what it means to them.

1. If you're honest, how hard is it to keep a godly attitude about sex and sexuality as a teenager in the world you live in? What are some reasons why it is so challenging?
2. What are some real ways you can try and deal with, or even limit, the temptations you face when it comes to sexual images or sexual content in media such as TV, movies, the Internet, etc.?
3. When it comes to dating and relationships, is the pressure from friends or classmates to have sex something teenagers deal with? How does it affect your relationships?
4. From a spiritual standpoint, we know sex outside of marriage is against God's will for us. What are some very practical reasons sex outside of marriage is not in your best interests?
5. How does having a godly attitude toward sex and sexuality in your relationships show others that you respect them?