

First - Youth

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 103 FIRST STREET S.E. FORT WALTON BEACH, FL. (850) 243-9292 FAX: (850) 243-0905

January 26, 2010

RE: True Love Waits Sexual Abstinence / Purity Study

Youth Parent,

We would like to include all grades, but realize that some parents may not feel this is a subject their child needs to hear at this moment. This could be especially true for those in the sixth grade. Therefore, we would like to present this program as an option for you and your child.

This letter is to inform you that we will be studying the subject sexual abstinence as it pertains to the Biblical teachings of physical and emotional purity. This year we will do our study a little bit differently. In the past we have rotated years between a Disciple Now Weekend format and spreading it out over a series of Sunday nights at UMYF. This year we will be doing our study on Wednesday nights and utilizing our existing small group ministry. I feel that Wednesdays is ideal as we are already separated by age and gender.

The sexual activity of our teens is a serious subject. In a poll of students a youth minister friend of mine conducted several years ago he asked the question, "Have you lost your virginity?" Seventy percent of the students answered "yes" while only fourteen percent of parents believed that their child had done so. Each day in their schools our young people are hearing and learning about sex from their friends and acquaintances. On the radio popular artists that they are listening to are encouraging it. Unfortunately, most of popular opinion and teachings today are contrary to God's plan and design for sex.

Our material for this study will be *Living Pure: Inside Out* by Bill Hughes and LifeWay Press. This material is not designed to be a sex education course, but rather a study focused on Biblical purity; how to live the life that God intended and stay away from behavior that is harmful to ourselves and our relationship with Him. The lessons include 1) Purity...It's a God Thing, 2) I Can't...But He Can, 3) Secret Sin, 4) Living in Purity and 5) Making a Commitment to Purity. *We will begin on Wednesday, February 3rd and finish with a commitment service and ring ceremony on Wednesday, March 24th.*

We look forward to sharing God's plan for purity in their lives. *I would like to ask you to fill out a permission form for this event. You can find it on our website.* The address is at the top of the page. Please join us in prayer as we plan for this important study. If this is something that you would not like your child to participate in, or have questions please contact me.

In Christ,

James Whited

Director of Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church

"For God wants you to be holy and pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin so that each of you will marry in holiness and honor - not in lustful passion as the heathen do, in their ignorance of God and his ways." 1 Thess 4:3-5 TLB