

Hip Hope Discussion Topics

This section is an opportunity for the youth and young adults to share their views and an opportunity for them to be challenged by Biblical worldview. This section is only **50-minutes**

Lesson 4:-Drugs

Drugs- "*Don't Get Hooked*"

a. Introduction-

Quotes about Drugs -*please read some of these quotes as an ice breaker or to support one of your points*

A United Nations publication of 1998, "Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," states that:

"With estimates of \$100 billion to \$110 billion for heroin, \$110 billion to \$130 billion for cocaine, \$75 billion for cannabis and \$60 billion for synthetic drugs, the probable global figure for the total illicit drug industry would be approximately \$360 billion. Given the conservative bias in some of the estimates for individual substances, **a turnover of around \$400 billion per annum is considered realistic.**"

- *Percent of persons 12 years of age and over with any illicit drug use in the past month: 8.0%* -**Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 2008**
- *In 2006, more than 19% of drivers ages 16 to 20 who died in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking alcohol.*- **Dept of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Traffic Safety Facts 2006: Alcohol-Impaired Driving. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2008 [cited 2008 Oct 22].**
- MDMA (Ecstasy) can cause a marked increase in body temperature (hyperthermia). Hyperthermia can lead to muscle breakdown, which can in turn result in kidney failure. In addition, dehydration, hypertension, and heart failure may occur in susceptible individuals. Repeated use over a short interval of time can lead to high levels of the drug in the body—increasing the risk of harm.- **NIDA Community Drug Alert Bulletin — Club Drugs, 2004**
- *Weed can cause increased heart rate and make some users extremely anxious or paranoid.* **NIDA. Marijuana: Facts for Teens, 2008**

- *The short-term effects of marijuana can include problems with memory and learning.* **NIDA. Marijuana: Facts for Teens, 2008**
- Some rare "side effects" of steroid use include liver tumors and cancer, jaundice, fluid retention, high blood pressure, kidney tumors, and trembling. **NIDA InfoFacts: Steroids (Anabolic-Androgenic), 2008.**
- Young people who use marijuana weekly have double the risk of depression later in life. **Patton, GC et al. "Cannabis use and mental health in young people: cohort study." British Medical Journal, 325: 1195–1198, 2002**
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- *Percent of persons using at least one prescription drug in the past month: 48%* **Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 2005-2008)**
- *Percent of persons 12 years of age and over with marijuana use in the past month: 6.1%* -**Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 2008**
- *Underage drinking costs the United States more than \$58 billion every year.* (**http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html**)
- *40 percent of those who started drinking at age 13 or younger developed alcohol dependence later in life. Ten percent of teens who began drinking after the age of 17 developed dependence.* (**http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html**)
- *Ten percent of teens report that they have attended a rave, and ecstasy and other drugs were available at more than two-thirds of these raves.* (**http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html**)
- *Teens that drink are 50 times more likely to use cocaine than teens who never consume alcohol.* (**http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html**)
- *63 percent of the youth who drink alcohol say that they initially got the alcohol from their own or their friend's homes.* (**http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html**)

- *Alcohol kills 6 ½ times more teenagers than all other illicit drugs combined.*
(http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html)
- *Teenagers whose parents talk to them on a regular basis about the dangers of drug use are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't.*
(http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html)
- *More than 60 percent of teens said that drugs were sold, used, or kept at their school.*
(http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html)
- *20 percent of 8th graders report that they have tried marijuana.*
(http://www.teendrugabuse.us/teen_drug_use.html)
- *28 percent of teens know a classmate or friend who has used ecstasy* (“**Teen Substance Abuse**” GDCADA. 9 March 2005. 28 May 2005
<http://www.gdcada.org/statistics/teens.htm>)
- *Percent of persons 12 years of age and over with any nonmedical use of a psychotherapeutic drug in the past month: 2.5% -Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 2008*
- *The causes of drug abuse vary with the type of drug and involve interactions of biological, psychological, socio-cultural and spiritual conditions. However, four major reasons or risk factors for substance abuse have been identified: personality, family, friends and crises- M. Newcomb, E. Maddahian and P. Bentler, “Risk Factors for Drug Use Among Adolescents: Concurrent and Longitudinal Analyses*
- *Medicine is a drug, but if it is prescribed by a doctor it's not illegal. The drugs that will take you out of your mind are not to be used by Christians. It's kind of like alcohol, if you drink alcohol to the point that you get drunk then you have abused the use. If you abuse drugs and use them to the point that they get you so high that you don't know what you're doing, that's not what God would have us to do. But if you use drugs to eliminate pain, say for instance people that have diseases or body organs deteriorating, then prescribed drugs I believe help people to have a better quality of life. But recreational use of drugs should not be done by Christians. –Pastor Bob Woolfolk*

Questions (*make sure you ask the highlighted questions*)

When you think of drugs, what comes to mind?

Do you think the government is too harsh on illegal drugs?

Have you ever been offered illegal drugs before? If yes, when?

Have you ever used drugs before or have you ever been addicted to any drugs(including pain killers)

Does God care about drug addicts and users?

Can God really free people from their addictions or is it just an act of their will?

What do think God thinks about drugs?

b. Moment of Truth: Why did God allow humans to create drugs?

***Genesis 1:28-31* ~Why did God Humans the ability to create Drugs**

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and **it was very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. - **Genesis 1:28-31 NIV**

Answer:

God doesn't directly address the issue of drugs in the Bible, but bible gives clear guideline to deal with the issue of drugs.

In [Genesis 1:28-31](#) we read that God blessed woman and man in connection with the created order and called the whole relationship “very good.” In other words, God created us with needs and created elements in our environment to meet those needs. Undoubtedly our human capacities to explore and develop drugs like analgesics, allergy relief agents, antibiotics and laxatives are part of God's creational design. Yet we must struggle to discern proper and improper uses for the drugs we discover. Some drugs should not be used at all, some are good only in moderation, some should not be used too early in life, and some are intended for good but produce great harm (for example, thalidomide). One might also question whether instant chemical relief is preferable to building character through exploring and coping with root causes of anxiety, depression or pain -

***Galatians 5:22-23, Galatians 5:19-20 &Mark 12:30* ~How God Want us Interact With all types Drugs?**

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. -

Galatians 5:19-20 NIV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.--

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength-**Mark 12:30 NIV**

Answer:

Guideline 1:-Galatians 5:19-20 tells us that the works of the flesh are sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies. These things do not please God because they separate us from His presence. God longs to have a relationship with us. So, we can safely say that if any drugs we take causes to do or engage in any of the works of flesh mentioned above then we have no shouldn't take them. It has been proven that all illegal drugs (Including prescription drugs that are abused) produces at least one these behaviors in us.

Guideline 2:-Galatians 5:19-20 tells us that the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If a particular type of drug you use doesn't help you develop or maintain the character qualities mentioned in Galatians 5:19-20 in the long-term and not just in the short term, then you shouldn't use it. God wants us be filled with the fruit of the spirit because He wants us to be close to Him.

Guideline 3:- If you use any drugs that prevents you from loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength you shouldn't use it

After, the Moment of Truth please turn the floor back to the group and ask the reflective question.

c. Reflective Questions: *(Please ask group this application question)*

Ask the Group: Are you addicted or experimenting that is not pleasing to God?

NB:*Please feel free to do additional research to enhance your group discussion.*