

# The Ishbane Conspiracy

## Sex: What are We watching?

### Ice Breaker/Game:

### Book Study:

#### **In the World but not of the World**

*Time: about 60-90 minutes*

*Students will learn about the themes of "The Ishbane Conspiracy" by Randy Alcorn, more specifically how to remain sexually pure even while being bombarded by sexual themes at every turn.*

**Supplies:** Bibles, *The Ishbane Conspiracy* by Randy Alcorn, Mars Hill Video clip.

Start the study out with a discussion of the students' reactions and insights of chapters 7-9.  
**(15 min)**

Ask: **What did you think about the chapters 7-9?**

**What part of the story did you identify with?**

**What stood out to you this week in our reading?**

Break into gender specific groups for this portion of the study. **(20 min)**

Say: **Today we are going to talk about how our culture views sex and how we can stay sexually pure, even while being confronted from all sides. Images, implications, and overt sexual acts are everywhere now.**

Ask: **How is sex depicted in movies and on TV?**

**How would your peers at school describe it?**

Say: **Here is an example of our culture making sex a casual thing: How many of you have seen the latest 'Liquid Plumr' commercial?**

If the students have not seen the commercial, describe it to them and how overt the sexual innuendos are and how this sends the message that sex is not special and should be treated as “no big deal”. The commercial can be found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7fz0jpuLkM>

Ask: **What other examples can you think of that send the message that sex is ok anytime with anyone?**

**What do you think are the consequences of this attitude?**

Say: **When sex is everywhere, we get desensitized to the messages that the world is sending us that casual sex is normal, best, and not a big deal. But what does God say about what we should let into our lives and our minds?**

Have a student read *Philippians 4:8*.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

**How does this passage compare or contrast to how the word says we should live?**

Read *Ephesians 5:1-3*.

<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup> Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.

**What does it mean to imitate God?**

**Notice what it says in verse 3 ‘There must not be a hint of sexual immorality’. What is a ‘hint’ how can we avoid a ‘hint’**

Come back together as a large group. *(20 min)*

Say: **What we just read about in Ephesians is God calling us to be sanctified by Him.**

Ask: **What does being sanctified mean?**

Say: **We are going to watch a short clip by Pastor Mark Driscoll of Mars Hill Church. I want you to really listen and get a full picture of what “being in the world but not of the world”, looks like and what God has promised to those that are sanctified in Him.**

Watch the clip from Pastor Mark Driscoll out of the sermon series "Pray Like Jesus". You can find it at <http://marshill.com/media/pray-like-jesus/the-high-priestly-prayer-pt-2> 4:37-11:22.

**Ask: How can we make sure that we are only seeking Joy in what God has for us, not in the world?**

**Say: It all really comes down to a choice. There is only one way that we can separate us from the filth that is all around us... We need to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to search your heart and show you the areas that you have let complacency or rationalizations separate you from God.**

Form two groups. Assign the groups *1 Samuel 23:9-14* and *2 Samuel 11:1-4*. **(20 min)**

<sup>9</sup> When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod." <sup>10</sup> David said, "Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. <sup>11</sup> Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will." <sup>12</sup> Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will." <sup>13</sup> So David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there. <sup>14</sup> David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands.

<sup>11</sup> In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

Have the groups read the passages and determine how David made his decision.

Then ask: **What was different about how David made these decisions?**

**What was the outcome of each decision?**

**Say: When David asked God for help, he made good decisions. When he didn't seek the Lord's guidance, he made a bad one. When we stand for what is right, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we become missionaries to our friends. And when we live for God in all areas of our life we have His spirit living in us and helping us to stay pure in all things.**

End with Prayer in the small groups.