



Under the Influence

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY BIBLE STUDY stresses that drinking can affect your Christian witness. Choosing to drink can affect your witness by leading you to sin and leading others to stumble.

A NOT EVERYONE SEES THINGS THE WAY YOU DO.

- ◆ What is something you truly thought you knew and it turned out that you were wrong?
- ◆ Why does knowledge sometimes make people prideful?
- ◆ Why is it dangerous for you to think you “know it all”?
- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-7.** People often have various opinions and beliefs on the same issue.
- ◆ Why would eating food sacrificed to idols (in Paul's time) cause some Christians to struggle?
- ◆ How can something be a sin for one Christian but not for another? Can you give an example of a time when you dealt with this issue?
- ◆ What do your Youth Leadership Family believe about drinking? Your friends? Parents—what do you believe about drinking? How do all of these opinions compare to your own beliefs about the use of alcohol?

B YOUR ACTIONS HAVE INFLUENCE.

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 8:8-11.** Your actions have influence on other people. In particular, younger Christians who look up to you are watching the choices you make.
- ◆ How have someone else's actions or choices influenced your actions or choices? Why did they influence you?
- ◆ Have your actions or choices influenced someone else?
- ◆ How would you explain the “principle of the stumbling block”? How far should you go in giving up your rights when it causes others to stumble?
- ◆ Paul was concerned that weaker believers would see a stronger believer, who did not believe in idols, eating the meat and be led to think that if eating the meat was OK then worshipping the idols must be OK too.
- ◆ Do you believe that drinking alcohol could detract from your witness as a Christian? How?

C YOUR FREEDOM CAN TURN TO SIN

- ◆ **Read 1 Corinthians 8:12-13.** Your actions might lead a younger Christian to give into temptation and sin. When this happens, it also hurts Christ.
- ◆ What approach do you tend to take toward things that fall into a “gray area”?
- ◆ Can you describe a time when your “freedom” became another person's “stumbling block”? How was this sinning against Christ? What do you need to do differently so that this doesn't occur again?
- ◆ One day it will be legal for you to drink and you may feel the freedom to do so. How will this teaching possibly affect your choice? How might your choice impact others?

WRAP IT UP

- ◆ Divide the family into two teams and debate The Point of this session: the choice to drink can lead you to sin and others to stumble.
- ◆ Using principles from this study create a “Family Statement of Belief” about drinking.
- ◆ How has this study influenced the decisions you make (or might one day make) about drinking?
- ◆ Why must these principles be considered when you make decisions about drinking?
- ◆ Do most people consider these principles? Why?

Efforts are being made by the Ashley River Baptist Church Youth Leadership Family to resource parents to offer Spiritual encouragement for their children. This guide is a follow-up from the Bible Study that our students studied this past Sunday in “Sunday Student Life” (a.k.a. Sunday School). You can break this up into multiple days (using a different letter each day) or share it in a midweek Family encounter depending on your schedule. There will be more resources offered to you in the coming months as we grow our Student Ministry parent/Church partnership. Do not hesitate to connect with Pastor Kent Williams at any time for more ideas or encouragement.

This and future information will be posted on the Student Ministry link at www.ashleyriverchurch.org.