

## Week 5: March 6

### Friends Who Struggle

Friends are awesome. And sometimes dealing with friends can be challenging.

Story #1: Friend says he found some pictures online of naked people and you should check them out!

Story #2: Friend, girl, comes to you and says she thinks she's a boy.

Tonight: What should you do when your friends are dealing with things we've discussed in the Heart To Heart series? These could be Christian or non-Christian friends.

We laid out God's design for sex a few weeks ago: **The only sexual relationship the Bible supports is between one man and one woman while they are in a loving marriage.**

We talked about what to do when you're struggling---talk to someone.

But what if it's your friends who are struggling in that area?

- Gay
- Trans
- Porn
- Temptation
- Lustful thoughts

Don't

- Laugh
- Act weirded or grossed out
- Use the Bible as a weapon
- Ignore them or minimize it

What should you do?

I'm not going to train you to be a counselor. You won't have all the answers by the end of tonight. Here are some things you can do when your friends are struggling sexually:

1. Be like Jesus.
  - a. He dwelt among us and is able to sympathize with our weakness. (Hebrews 4:15)
  - b. Jesus humbled himself (Phil. 2) and put our interests first.
2. Be humble. Remember your own weaknesses and struggles
  - a. Take the beam out of your own eye! (Matt. 7:5)
3. Make sure your friend is okay, secure, and safe.
4. Ask questions. Seek to understand.
5. Share your story: Your own weaknesses and struggles. Talk about how your faith has helped you.
6. Ask them if you can pray with them.
7. Invite them to come to church with you! Your gay, trans, and broken friends can absolutely be here! This is a place for broken people looking for help and hope, and that help is found in Jesus.
8. Remain being a good friend!

Act out scenes: Write scripts, have high schoolers read them

Coming alongside your friends who are struggling is a great opportunity to shine your light to a crooked and depraved generation...shine like stars (Phil. 2:14-16)

Your goal is not make a gay person straight or a trans person "cis." Your goal to is to give them hope through your words and actions, and that hope is rooted in Jesus.

### **Script 1: Guys**

Kyle: Hey Eddie. What's up? Did you see the video that Mr. Beast posted yesterday?

Eddie: Yes, it was crazy! I can't believe he gave away so much money to all of those people.

Kyle: I know! I wish I could be one of those people. (pause) I saw another video interesting video yesterday.

Eddie: What was it about?

Kyle: Um...I can't really talk about it.

Eddie: Come on, what was it? Was it that Dude Perfect trick shot video?

Kyle: No. It's something different. And it's something I know you wouldn't like because I know you're a Jesus person.

Eddie: Hey, I'm your friend and you can trust me no matter what.

Kyle: Well, it was a video that another kid in 4<sup>th</sup> hour shared with me. In the video there's people not wearing much clothing and they're doing stuff that I can't really describe. It was exciting and weird to watch. It's like I wanted to keep watching but I knew I shouldn't.

Eddie: It sounds like it's really tempting to watch those videos.

Kyle: It's so tempting!

Eddie: I get it. Temptation is a challenge. How long have you been watching the videos?

Kyle: For a few weeks now.

Eddie: I respect you for being honest with me. What can I do to help you?

Kyle: Well, the videos of naked people aren't that big of a deal, it's not like it's hurting anybody.

Eddie: (pauses to think) Are you okay if I share my opinion with you?

Kyle: Oh no, I blew it! You're going to judge me and tell me how I'm wrong. I should have never brought this up to you! Christians are so judgmental. I think I should be able to watch those videos if I want to.

Eddie: Hey, I'm not saying I'm perfect. And you're right, it's ultimately your choice to watch the videos. But I don't think watching those videos are good for you or for the people in your life or for the people in the videos. It affects you more than you think.

Kyle: But it feels good when I watch them. That means it's okay.

Eddie: Well junk food tastes good to eat but that doesn't mean it's good for us. Look, I'm not going to try to convince you that my perspective is correct. I guess I'm just trying to make you think it through a little bit.

Kyle: I don't know. I might keep watching them. I have to think about what you've just said. I shouldn't have even told you.

Eddie: I'm glad you trusted me enough to share with me. I'm glad we could talk about this. And don't think I'm walking around thinking I'm perfect. I've watched some things I know I shouldn't have.

Kyle: Are we still friends?

Eddie: Of course! I just want to be clear that I do not want to watch any of those bad videos with you.

Kyle: Fair enough. Want to go play some Fornite?

Eddie: Yes. Let's go!!!

**Script 2: Girls**

Amanda: Hey Kristy, check out this cute outfit I found on Instagram!

Kristy: Wow, look at the colors. Those would go perfectly with your new shoes.

Amanda: I know!

Kristy: Amanda, you've seemed a little "off" lately. Is there something going on? Or am I over-analyzing things?

Amanda: Well... (long pause)

Kristy: So there is something. What's up? I care about you.

Amanda: I can't tell you.

Kristy: Why.

Amanda: Because you go to church and I know what you'll say.

Kristy: Well yes, I do go to church but hopefully that just makes me a more loving person. Come on, you can trust me. I'm here to listen.

Amanda: I can't believe I'm going to tell you this.

Kristy: You can trust me. I'm here to listen.

Amanda: Okay, here it goes. (take a long, deep breath).....I think I might be transgender. I think I might actually be a boy.

Kristy: (long pause)....Amanda, I had no idea. Thank you for your courage and for trusting me enough to share with me. How long have you been thinking about this?

Amanda: Well, it started a few years ago but I've been thinking about it a lot more lately.

Kristy: That sounds like a lot to be carrying around in your head. I just want you to know that I believe God loves you. And as your friend, I love you and care about you.

Amanda: I guess I feel a little better, but it seems so confusing in my head.

Kristy: I know this is a sensitive thing, but would it be okay if I asked a few follow up questions?

Amanda: Sure. It's just all so stressful and confusing!

Kristy: Are you safe? Like, you're not thinking about harming yourself as a way of dealing with the stress, are you?

Amanda: No, it hasn't gotten that bad.

Kristy: I'm glad. If it ever gets close to that point, please tell me or someone else. I care about your safety first and foremost.

Amanda: I will.

Kristy: Who else knows about this?

Amanda: The only other person I've told is Callie.

Kristy: Okay. How can I help you?

Amanda: I'm not sure. Just keep being my friend, I guess.

Kristy: I can definitely do that! Is it okay if I ask you about this again in a few days?

Amanda: Sure.

Kristy: I need to leave for soccer practice soon. Before I go, would it be okay if I prayed for you?

Amanda: I don't pray much myself but right now I'll take all the help I can get.

Kristy: Okay, thanks. I would love to pray for you.