

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
The Christian Guide to Cheating

Sermon 4th September 2010
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Small Group Study for Week of Sept 4- 10
(Acknowledgement needs to be made to Andy Stanley and his book
“Choosing to Cheat.”)

The Big Idea

Everybody cheats. Cheating is about establishing priorities. A priority is something you put ahead of something else. A priority is something you say yes to even when it means saying no to other important things. For example, saying no to dessert is cheating your appetite so your self-control can be strengthened. Christian cheating is putting Gods principles first in your life.

Group Reads Daniel 1:1-16

Comment: There were two parties that wanted something from Daniel. He could not satisfy the demands of both. He would either give the visible King, King Nebuchadnezzar, what he expected or give the invisible King, the Lord God what He deserved. One or the other was going to be cheated.

Questions

1. Discuss: When we look at putting God first in our lives, followed by our families and then church, we will face real challenges. How do the challenges we face in our day-to-day life of putting God first compare to Daniels? Would you have been able to do what Daniel did?
2. The first step in cheating for God is making a decision. Read verse 8 again. Why is this such a hard thing to do?
How does making a decision help with momentum and focus?
3. The second step after making a decision is having a plan for cheating. Read verses 9,10 and discuss why the plan Daniel decided on seemed humanly impossible? How is this relevant to us today?
4. The third step in Christian cheating is setting a test, read verse 11-16. If I want to be a better follower of Christ, a better parent, partner etc, after making a decision and then developing a plan, how could I put my plan to a test? Give examples. Anything else from these verses?

5. Discuss the statement, “you can’t expect God’s blessing if you disobey God’s principles.”
6. In the example of parenting, partnering or relationship with God, how can we cheat to be better in the above? Give examples eg date night
7. What are we going to do this week to cheat as Christians?