

Family Discipleship

Conversation Guide



Drugs

There are many types of drugs. They can be helpful or harmful, legal or illegal, non-addictive or highly addictive. Certain drugs have made headlines recently. In 2018, over 38% of 12th graders surveyed admitted to vaping within the last year. From 1999 to 2017, more than 700,000 people died from a drug overdose, 68% of those being opioid overdoses. Meanwhile, the legalization of marijuana in some states has been celebrated.

Regardless of the type of drug or whether it's legal, what people are often seeking when they take drugs is escape from reality. They may want to dull pain, increase alertness, feel more social, or just relax. They are looking to alter their mental state in some way, and drugs will do this. Some drugs can be taken with little negative affect (such as a beverage with caffeine), but for others there is no safe level (such as heroin or cocaine).

Discuss: What is the difference between resting and escaping? Which do you seek more and what do you do to find it?

Since drugs affect the brain's neural pathways, their effect on people of different age groups can vary.

Watch this video explaining how drugs affect developing brains: 

God's Word teaches us that we are to submit to the government's laws (Romans 13). It also teaches us that some things that are permitted may not be beneficial for us, and we should not allow anything to control us (1 Corinthians 6). Christians need to be discerning in the use of drugs and recognize when they are used unwisely.

Discuss: How can we guard ourselves against the abuse of legal or illegal drugs?

Drug use can lead to various levels of substance use disorder and addiction. How we treat addiction in our society is controversial. Author Johann Hari states, "For a hundred years now we've been singing war songs about addicts. I think all along we should have been singing love songs to them. Because the opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection."

Discuss: How can the church be a place where people who are struggling with drug use can find support and connection?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you give us, including the benefits we receive from drugs. Give us wisdom to use these gifts appropriately. Keep us from the temptation to abuse them. Use us to help others who are struggling and to lead them to your abounding grace. In our Savior Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Links, videos, and quotes contained within this guide do not necessarily represent the teachings of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).