

SCOTTY LOVE'S BIBLE STUDY FOR GUYS

Ten Bible Studies for Real Men
By John Cospers

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Introduction

The inspiration for the Scotty Love Show began in the spring of 2008. I had been in talks with a would-be men's ministry speaker about ghostwriting a book aimed at Christian men. It was a worthy idea, but I had two problems with it. One, the gentleman more or less wanted me to come up with the ideas and craft them in a book, essentially passing my thoughts and ideas off as his own. Two, as I thought and prayed about the book, I felt a burden for guys who are not necessarily book readers - in other words, most guys.

I chose not to take the ghostwriting job, but I was left with an avid desire to reach the rest of the guys in this world - Christian or not - who were not book readers. Being a comedy sketch writer, my thoughts naturally turned to drama. Not every guy is a book reader, but all guys like to laugh, so why not create a series of skits just for the guys?

I first filmed these sketches under the title "The Sensitive Christian Man," and shot them with puppets instead of actors. A few years later, Scotty got a slight name change and the show was renamed after him when I re-filmed the series with real actors. After telling a men's minister about the series, I decided to go ahead and write a Bible study based on the wisdom of Scotty Love.

The sketches contained in this book are all available to watch and stream online for free. You'll find links to all ten episodes at:

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

The scripts are also provided here for your use as stage dramas OR as video productions. That's right, if you don't have web access (or don't like my version), you can stage or film your own. You are free to build on these scripts and elaborate as much as you want, so long as they are used for their intended purpose: to minister to guys of all kinds in a way that will build better men of God.

You are also welcome to modify and adapt the Bible studies to your liking as well. Just be sure your purpose is shaping men into more compassionate, loving, and Christ-like leaders. The world has had enough of Scotty Love and his ilk.

If you have questions about anything in this book, please email me at john@righteousinsanity.com. I'm happy to hear your thoughts and answer any questions left unanswered in these pages.

Best luck with your men's ministry. I hope this book is a blessing to you and the guys you serve!

John Cospers
February, 2014

Dramatis Personae

SCOTTY LOVE

A hypocritical, judgmental Christian man who decided to start his own talk show.
Played by John Cospers.

HILARY

A godly woman who inexplicably married Scott.
Played by Dija Henry.

DON

Scott's best friend, a smart, serious guy who tolerates Scott to a point.
Played by Austin Nichols.

RANDY

Another church friend who doesn't have near the patience for Scott as Don.
Played by Wayne Brown.

AMANDA/KAITLYN-MARIE

Scott's long-neglected but surprisingly well-adjusted daughter
Played by Ollie Ballew.

MICHAEL

A young single guy from Scott's small group
Played by Josh Reed.

SEAN

Randy's son.
Played by Tim Torok.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
- King Solomon

"I am Iron Man."
- Ozzy Osbourne

WEEK ONE - IRON SHARPENS IRON

Small Groups

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Don

Michael

SCOTT: Hi, and welcome to The Scotty Love Show. Today, we're talking about small groups, and joining me today are two guys from my small group. Let's say hello to my good friend Don.

DON: Hello.

SCOTT: And our new member, my own personal Timothy, Michael.

MICHAEL: Hi.

SCOTT: You know, small groups are an important part of the Christian life, and I brought the fellas here to talk about it. In small groups we do life. We get real, we share our lives, we make ourselves totally vulnerable. Like in our last group session, when Don shared that his father never loved him.

DON: What?

SCOTT: That was a deep and personal story you shared, buddy.

DON: Yeah, it was also a private story.

SCOTT: But that's what we do. Nothing's private in the small group.

TED: Keyword, IN the small group.

SCOTT: Let's give the folks a taste of what I mean. Don, introduce yourself.

DON: I'm Don.

SCOTT: Now share something personal.

DON: No.

SCOTT: Come on, Don, you're among friends.

DON: I can't do this, Scott. I'm not going to share my life with your web audience. Plus, you're a terrible gossip.

SCOTT: Ha ha ha. Don's a little testy because his parents are going through a divorce.

How about you, Michael? Anything you want to share?

MICHAEL: I was told I didn't have to until I was comfortable.

SCOTT: Come on, Michael. Jesus wants us to be accountable, not bottle it up.

MICHAEL: Yeah? How about if you open up first?

SCOTT: My life's an open book. What do you want to know?

DON: Tell him about the time you flipped off the pastor in traffic.

SCOTT: What?

DON: You remember, that time you were late to Wednesday service, and you cut him off turning on red?

SCOTT: Did I mention we like to kid in this group?

DON: Or about how you forgot your anniversary and Hilary locked you out of the house.

SCOTT: Haha, silly games.

DON: And how you had to go to marriage counseling.

SCOTT: Come on, guys, that's not funny.

MICHAEL: But that's what we do, Scott. We share life. Why don't you share your real last name with us?

SCOTT: That's all the time we have.

DON: What about your subscription to Oprah's book club?

SCOTT: Be sure to join us next time--

DON: Tell 'em about the Ellen Degeneres poster in your room when you were in high school!

SCOTT: You guys are jerks!

LESSON ONE

Iron Sharpens Iron

Key Scripture: Proverbs 27:7, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

ICE BREAKERS

What is your favorite sports team?

What is the greatest action movie of all time?

What is the funniest movie of all time?

INTRODUCTION

Guys are not naturals when it comes to opening up. We don't go to the bathroom in groups to talk about our dates. Guys don't call guys just to say, "Whatcha doin'?" Guys don't meet over coffee, and they never, ever talk about "feelings."

God doesn't want us to keep it all to ourselves. If he did, he wouldn't have gifted women with the ability to make us open up when we don't feel like talking. But God doesn't want us to stop there. He wants us to band together as men to encourage, support, and strengthen one another.

Being part of a small group is a serious commitment, but a small group demands all of its members to make that commitment in order to succeed. We need to commit ourselves to listen, to share, and maybe most important - to keep it in the group.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

What benefits does Solomon give for working together instead of going it alone?

How often do you undertake a task that would be better done with two people?

Why do you think we choose to do those jobs on our own?

Have you ever had any disasters - small or large - because you didn't ask for help?
What happened?

Read Prov 27:17

How have you been "sharpened" by mentors - teachers, coaches, pastors, bosses - in your life?

How have you been sharpened by peers in your life?

What other benefits have you experienced working with or playing on a team vs. going alone?

CHALLENGE

Why did you decide to join a small group?

How do you expect to be "sharpened" by being in this group?

What fears do you have about being in a small group?

What expectations do you have for this group, and for your fellow group members?

How nervous are you about sharing things that are going on in your life?

The first rule of Fight Club is you don't talk about Fight Club. The same rule has to apply to a small group. How can we create a safe environment where guys can be heard without worrying that what is said here will leave this room?

What other questions or concerns do you have that you'd like to address as we begin our small group studies together?

WRAP UP

Whatever your expectations are coming into this group, one thing is certain: we will get out of it what we put in. If we put on fronts and refuse to be honest with each other, we will never become sharper. If we betray the trust required to make this group a success, we will fall apart. But if we are genuinely open and honest with one another, there's no limit to what God can do with our group.

Let's ask God to bless the time we spend together. Let's pray for the courage to open up and be real. And let's ask God to use each of us to sharpen one another.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing each one of us to this group. I pray that you will use this group to encourage and inspire every member. Help us to build the trust we need to hold each other accountable and build each other up.

In Jesus's name,

Amen

LESSON TWO

The Good Listener

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Hilary

SCOTT: Welcome back to The Scotty Love Show. Today we're talking about communication. Communication is one of the most important things in a relationship, especially marriage. And if you want to be a good communicator, you have to be a good listener. To show you what I mean, I've invited my wife Hilary to join us. Hilary?

HILARY: Scott?

SCOTT: Hilary, say hi to the fans at home.

HILARY: You didn't tell me you were going to put me on your show!

SCOTT: Hilary is a little angry at me, as you can tell. She didn't know she was going to be on the show because - she didn't listen!

HILARY: It's because all you talk about is your lame-o show, Scott. It's embarrassing!

SCOTT: When you don't listen to your spouse, you can run into all kinds of problems. Like the little tiff Hilary and I had this morning.

HILARY: Do you really want to go there?

SCOTT: Hilary got mad at me this morning because I bought tickets to this week's Monday Night Raw. Had Hilary listened a month ago when I told her I was buying the tickets, she might have marked it on the calendar.

HILARY: Oh no, I heard you talking about your tickets, Scott. But you didn't hear me when I told you, "Don't buy tickets. We're taking my parents to the Supper Club for their anniversary that night!"

SCOTT: Hilary, aren't you just projecting your shortcomings onto me?

HILARY: This is just like the time you went to the school bus figure eights the night of Amanda's dance recital. And the one night I needed you to baby sit so I can go out with the girls, you send me a text message saying you're going to the mall to get David Hasselhoff's autograph.

SCOTT: Hey, don't drag the Hoff into this. If you ever listened to me, you'd know what a big Knight Rider fan I am.

HILARY: Oh yes. How could I forget about your man crush on the Hoff?

SCOTT: Well, Hilary, I just want you to know that I forgive you for being a bad listener. And when you're ready to come home from the Holiday Inn and talk, I'll be waiting.

HILARY: (smug) I'm not at the Holiday Inn.

SCOTT: You're not?

HILARY: I'm at the Brown Hotel downtown.

SCOTT: The Brown?? But... but that's three hundred a night!

HILARY: I also used the valet parking.

SCOTT: That's another fifty!

HILARY: Oh look, lobster on the room service menu. My favorite.

SCOTT: Hilary, don't you dare!

HILARY: What's that, Scott? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

Hilary clicks off.

SCOTT: Well, that was completely pointless. Be sure to join us next time, when we'll discuss the Biblical guidelines for cutting off your wife's credit card.

LESSON TWO

Listen Up!

Key Scripture: Proverbs 18:13, James 1:19, Prov 10:19.

ICE BREAKERS

How many of you can recite your favorite (clean) line from your favorite movie?

How many of you can remember what the pastor preached on last Sunday?

What's the last thing your wife, boss, roommate or someone said to you before you came here?

INTRODUCTION

There's a big difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is the physical act of hearing, while listening is the act of giving attention to what we hear. We hear things all the time that we never will remember - dogs, car engines, rain, wind, music, Muzak, and yes, the voices of other people. We have the ability to give these sounds our attention or to tune them out. When we tune out voices that want to be heard, we can get ourselves into big trouble.

Friends, wives, girlfriends, children, doctors and bosses are just some of the people who want us to listen. Failing to listen can cause fractures in a relationship. It can get you in trouble. It can get you fired. It can lead to a night spent on the couch, or, as Scotty Love found out, a very, very expensive credit card bill.

Listening is critical to doing business. It's also key to good marriages, good friendships, and yes, good small groups. If we want to be the men God wants us to be, we have to pay attention and listen!

READ AND DISCUSS

Can anyone share a recent story of a time you didn't listen and got yourself in hot water?

Mark Twain once said, "It is better to remain silent and thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt." How does speaking without listening make us look like a fool?

Why is it important we hear the whole story before we speak?

Why do we tend to start speaking and offer answers before we know the whole story?

Read James 1:19 and Proverbs 10:19

Is there a correlation between speaking too soon and becoming angry?

Have you ever made someone angry because you spoke too soon? Or has someone angered you by failing to hear you out?

What other problems do we create when we fail to listen?

CHALLENGE

Where do you struggle to listen the most: with your family, at work, or at church?

How do you think social media has changed the way we listen? Do we "listen" better or worse online?

Sometimes we don't hear people who want us to listen because we are distracted. They hit us up when we are busy doing something else, or when we don't have time to chat. How often does this cause listening problems for you?

Do you think you can be a good listener while you are doing other things?

What other factors/situations can you think of that lead to people not hearing one another?

How can you eliminate distractions or otherwise improve your ability to listen to others when they want to talk?

What other habits do you need to change in order to become a better listener?

When is it okay to speak up and give answers or advice to someone who needs it?

How can we respond when we don't have the answers?

WRAP UP

If we want to become better listeners, we need to plan ahead. We need to discover the things that keep us from listening, and we need strategies to help us eliminate those distractions. When someone needs to talk, we need to give them our attention - not just our ears, but eye contact. We need to stop work if we can, or ask if it can wait a minute. If it can wait, we need to get to a stopping point and give the attention that's needed.

Failure to communicate rarely happens because people aren't speaking. It happens because someone isn't listening. Don't miss an opportunity to love someone because you're too distracted to hear them out. Stop and listen. Let them finish. Then speak only when necessary. Sometimes just listening is enough.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the way we run our mouths. Forgive us for being bad listeners. Teach us to stop and listen when someone needs our ear, and give us the wisdom to know when to answer, and when to stay silent.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON THREE

Parenting

By John Cosper

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Amanda (as Kaitlyn-Marie/KM)

SCOTT: Hi, and welcome to The Scotty Love Show. Today we're going to talk about a subject very important to me: kids. As Christian men, we need to focus a lot of prayer and time into raising our kids to love God. And there's no better example than my own daughter, Kaitlyn.

KM: Marie.

SCOTT: My daughter Marie.

KM: Kaitlyn-Marie. You know, with a hyphen?

SCOTT: Ha ha, we do like to kid in this family.

KM: Whatever.

SCOTT: Kaitlyn-Marie, you've watched your Daddy going to church and serving the Lord for years. What have you learned most from me?

KM: That you're a hypocrite.

SCOTT: Come on, honey, be serious for Daddy's podcast.

KM: It's true. He smiles and acts all Jesus-like in church, then he's cussing at the other drivers in traffic.

SCOTT: Ha ha, only the bad ones.

KM: Like you?

SCOTT: Everyone knows the impact a father can have teaching a son to be a man, but fathers have a critical role in a daughter's life, because we all know, Kaitlyn-Marie wants to marry a man exactly like me.

KM: No.

SCOTT: Don't you value you honesty, integrity, and a devotion to faith?

KM: Yeah. But you're none of those things.

SCOTT: I am too.

KM: How many recitals of mine have you been to?

SCOTT: Kaitlyn-Marie, you know I never missed a single piano recital.

KM: I took ballet, not piano!

SCOTT: Sounds like someone doesn't really want to go to the mall with her friends later.

KM: You can't ground me, Dad, I'm at college. Remember?

SCOTT: That's right. Mary Kate's at Bible college, and we're proud to see her fully devoted to studying the good book.

KM: Dianetics.

SCOTT: The Bible.

KM: No, Dianetics.

SCOTT: Since when do you read Dianetics?

KM: Since I joined the Church of Scientology.

SCOTT: How come I didn't know you joined the Church of Scientology?

KM: How come you don't want people to know your last name is Kapowski?

SCOTT: That's all the time we have for this week. I'm Scotty Love—

KM: Kapowski.

SCOTT: Go watch Battlefield Earth, heathen!

Scott storms off.

KM: (smiles for the camera) I'm not really a Scientologist. My name's not Kaitlyn-Marie either. It's Amanda. I just like to give him a hard time. It's the only fun I get with my Dad. Sad, isn't it?

LESSON THREE

Loving Your Kids

Key Scripture: Proverbs 1:8-9, Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6.

ICE BREAKERS

What's one of your favorite memories with your Mom or Dad?

Do you remember a time when your parents got really angry with you? What did you do, and how did they handle it?

Did you ever bust your parents doing something they should not have done - or that they would not have let you do? What was it? How did they respond?

INTRODUCTION

Of all the titles you will hold in your life, "father" is far and away the most challenging. It's also one of the most important. In addition to caring, nurturing, and providing for the physical needs of their children, God gave parents the awesome responsibility of teaching those children to walk in the steps of Jesus.

Teaching kids to follow Jesus isn't as simple as telling them what to do. You have to model it. Kids are always watching, and when they see a parent who doesn't practice what they preach, it can kill their faith. Our children need us to teach them God's Word. They need us to be active in their lives, not lecturing from a distance. And they need us to live the life we want them to emulate - which means we need to live the way Christ taught us to live!

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Proverbs 1:8-9

What does Solomon's instruction for his son tell us about the job of being a parent?

What instructions does God expect parents to give to their children?

Why did God give this job to parents, and not to teachers or pastors or someone outside the home?

Read Ephesians 6:4

What does it mean to exasperate our children?

What are some of the ways we frustrate our kids with our instructions, rules, and teaching?

Why is it critical for parents to make time for their kids?

Why is living what we preach more important than the preaching part? Do kids learn more from words or actions?

CHALLENGE

Do you remember any instances of your parents telling you, "Do as I say, not as I do?"

Dads: Can you think of any examples of a time when you exasperated your kids, either through your own impatience, anger, or bad example?

How can we address our mistakes with our kids to show them we know we did wrong and want to do better?

Dads: How hard is it to make time to play with your kids?

What are some things you have in common with your children, activities you can do together? If you're not a parent yet, what are some hobbies you hope to share with your kids?

How can you use that hobby to teach spiritual lessons? Brainstorm together to find ways that fun time can also be a time to build faith.

Are there some areas in your life you need to straighten out so you can be a better example to your kids?

Dads: What steps are you going to make this week to become a better Dad?

Non-Dads: What can you do now to prepare yourself to be the best Dad you can be?

WRAP UP

Your kids are your most important investment - more than any savings or retirement fund or even your old comic book collection. They are the future of the church and the future of this world. As someone once handed their faith down to you, it's up to you to pass that faith on to your children.

Make time for your kids. Teach them what the Word of God says. Then live it every day. When you mess up, don't sweep it under the rug. Confess your sin, tell your kids you know you messed up, and let them see a real effort from you to set things right.

Read Proverbs 22:6.

Train your kids by setting the example for them with your life. You may not see it, but they really are paying attention!

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of children. Forgive us for the times we fail you and our kids. Teach us how to set the example in our homes by living like Christ. Let our kids see a life in us that they will copy as they grow older.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON FOUR

Wife-Speak

By John Cosper

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Hilary

SCOTT: Welcome back to The Scotty Love Show. Today, I had hoped to be speaking to you on the concept of understanding your mate with my beloved wife Hilary. Unfortunately, due to circumstances totally beyond my control, Hilary won't be joining us in the basement studio as she has once again checked herself into at the \$300 a night hotel in downtown. Hilary, how's the room tonight?

HILARY: Go away, Scott!

SCOTT: Hilary and I had a little dust up earlier, something to do with dishes in the sink versus the dishwasher. At least that's what I thought until all sorts of other things came up - like how allegedly rude I am to her mother, and how I never bother with any housework, and something about never watching the things she wants to watch on TV. You know how that goes, don't you, guys? You're cruising along, just doing your thing and all of a sudden, bam! They just go off out of no where.

HILARY: (*sarcastic*) Oh yeah. That was completely out of no where.

SCOTT: I'm glad you can admit that. Now to help all my fellow men out there, I decided to write down a little cheat sheet for understanding what I call wife-speak. Wife-speak is all the loaded answers she always gives to your innocent questions when you just want her to tell you what's wrong. Here's how it goes. You notice your wife is a little less than happy to see you. You ask her what's wrong and she says:

HILARY: Nothing!

SCOTT: Nothing. That means yes, something is wrong, and that something is you. But of course you don't realize this because to you, a guy, nothing means nothing. So you ask her the next question: Are you mad at me? She answers:

HILARY: No!

SCOTT: Now to you and me, no means no. But in wife-speak no not only means yes, but "Yes, and now I'm even angrier because you even had to ask." By this point, you're in so deep, you best buckle up, because, if you're lucky, she's going to tell you everything you've done wrong for the last six months. If you're unlucky, she'll grab the keys and your credit card and check herself into a \$300 a night hotel.

HILARY: \$400. I took the massage and spa package tonight.

SCOTT: Great, just great. A few other notes on wife-speak. When you ask your wife's opinion on a restaurant or an activity and she says, "I don't care," that can mean one of two things. One, it may mean she doesn't really care. Or two, it may mean, "Yes, I do have a preference, but I know you don't care and plan to do whatever you want so what's the point of saying what my preference is?" Tread lightly here, boys, because misinterpreting "I don't care" can lead to "What's wrong?"

HILARY: Nothing.

SCOTT: And, "Are you mad at me?"

HILARY: No!

SCOTT: And finally, if you wife ever says to you:

HILARY: Do whatever you want.

SCOTT: Do not, I repeat, DO NOT do whatever you want. You do what she wants, and you like it. Unless you want to be living under the back porch with the dogs.

HILARY: Or paying for a massage from Sven.

SCOTT: Sven?

HILARY: You don't mind if I get a massage from Sven, do you?

SCOTT: I don't care.

HILARY: Are you sure?

SCOTT: Why should I care? Do whatever you want.

HILARY: What's wrong, Scott?

SCOTT: Nothing!

HILARY: Are you mad at me?

SCOTT: No!!

HILARY: Good. Goodbye.

The screen goes dark. Scott jumps in alarm.

SCOTT: Well, that wraps up another edition of The Scotty Love Show. I'm Sven - I mean Scotty Love. And I'm not at all mad. DO YOU HEAR ME, HILARY?

LESSON FOUR

Loving Your Wife

Key Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-33

ICE BREAKERS

1. What's the dumbest thing you've ever said to your wife?
2. What words or topics or triggers do you avoid with your wife because you know it's not a place you want to go?
3. When you're in the dog house, what's your go-to move to get out of it?

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever thought that women should come with an instruction manual? How nice would it be to have a booklet or even a cheat sheet to help you interpret every word and action? Never again would you be caught off guard when she's suddenly mad at you. Never again would you make things worse by asking, "Are you mad at me?" Never again would you get caught in that downward spiral where every thing you say just makes things worse.

Women are not cars, or stereos, or computers, or anything else that comes with a manual. They don't have warning lights or secret code words. They are different than us in how they think and communicate, and they don't especially like being analyzed like a piece of electronics. They want to be respected, understood, and loved just as we do.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Ephesians 6:25-33

How does God want us to love our wives?

Read Romans 5:8

How much did God do for the people he made his church?

Do you think God gave us this parallel to show us how he loves us or to teach us how we should love our wives? Why?

How many of you sacrificed some of your time - guy time - in the last week?

If Ephesians 6 is the standard job description for being a good husband, how do you think your wife would rate your job performance on a scale of 1 to 10?

CHALLENGE

What was it about your wife that first attracted you to her?

When was it that you knew that you wanted to marry your wife? How did you know?

Are you ever reminded of the woman you first fell in love with these days? What triggers you to see her as that same girl you wanted to propose to all those years ago?

What are some things you can do to become better helpers to your wife?

How can you become a better friend and partner to your wife?

Are there things in your relationship that are more likely to trigger fights? Can you think of any strategies to help you avoid negative conflicts (or help others in this group to do so)?

What little sacrifice could you make this week to give her a romantic surprise and (maybe) reminder of the guy she wanted to marry?

Will you do it?

WRAP UP

It doesn't take much some days to show your wife you love her, but it does require an effort on our parts. Don't take her for granted. And don't try to work her like a machine. Remember the wife of your youth (Proverbs 5:18). Remember the vow you made to be her partner. And never be shy about sacrificing for her, just as Jesus did for us.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times we take our wives for granted. Forgive us for phoning in our marital duties and not paying enough attention to our wives' needs. Help us to love and cherish them as you loved us, and give us strong marriages so we can withstand the hard times in life.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON FIVE

How to Judge Others

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Randy

SCOTT: Welcome back to The Scotty Love Show. Today we're talking about judging others. You know the Bible says that we should judge others by what's in the heart, and not the outside. But doesn't the outside tell you a lot about what's inside? I've invited a special guest to discuss this topic. My neighbor, and my friend, Randy.

RANDY: Hey, Scott.

SCOTT: Randy works in human resources for a major firm here in the area. It's his job to judge people. Randy, can I just say, you have a cool job?

RANDY: Thanks, Scott, but it's a lot of responsibility. My job is finding the best people to fit in with our firm.

SCOTT: And how much does a first impression count when you're making those judgments?

RANDY: Well, it counts for something, but if you really want to know someone, you have to take some time and--

SCOTT: Okay, okay, let's play a little game. Let me show you some photos of people, and you tell me, as a hiring manager, what your first impressions are.

RANDY: Uhh, okay.

SCOTT: Let's start with my old pal, Don.

Show a photo of Don.

RANDY: Well, just based on this photo, I'd say this guy is serious and professional. A little uptight, maybe, but--

SCOTT: Hahaha! Yeah, that's it! He is totally uptight. Okay, how about Michael here?

Show a photo of Michael.

RANDY: Aw, now see, this is not the way to dress for an interview. Lose the hat, get a haircut, put on a clean shirt--

SCOTT: That's it! That's totally him! Okay, okay, how about this guy?

Show a photo of Scott.

RANDY: Well, he's got a nice smile. Looks like a decent guy.

SCOTT: Really? That was your first impression of me?

RANDY: Sure. But that was before I got to know you were a self-righteous jerk.

SCOTT: What?

RANDY: I said you're a self-righteous jerk. You're superficial, judgmental. You don't know the first thing about loving others as yourself.

SCOTT: Really? Well since we're being honest, my first impression of you was that you were a brain dead redneck.

RANDY: What? Come on, Scott, why would you think that?

SCOTT: Well, you were wearing a Kentucky Wildcats shirt.

RANDY: (gasps, shocked and angry) You take that back and apologize!

SCOTT: Wow! I didn't know a Kentucky fan could actually use a four syllable word!

RANDY: You want to die tonight, Scott?

SCOTT: I think we better wrap it up there.

RANDY: I'm coming over there!

SCOTT: You've been watching the Scotty Love Show. I'm your host--

RANDY: Dead Man!

SCOTT: Please don't hurt me!

LESSON FIVE

Judgment Call

Key Scripture: Luke 18:9-14, Matthew 7:1-5

ICE BREAKERS

When you watch a movie trailer, how do you decide whether a movie looks good or looks like a pass?

When a new restaurant opens up in town, how do you decide whether or not you will check it out?

When was the last time you saw/heard a new music artist that you really, REALLY didn't like? What was it that made you decide you disliked them?

INTRODUCTION

Every day we make judgments. We judge movies based on their posters and trailers. We judge restaurants by their appearance and commercials. We judge musicians based on their looks as much as their musical ability (or lack thereof). We all have certain tastes - things we like and dislike - and we use those standards to judge everything from pop culture to new technologies to people.

Some people make a good living by making judgments about other people. Hiring managers and temp agencies are trained to identify qualified, motivated workers who fit an organization's goals and culture. These people have to be picky; their jobs and their companies' futures depend on it. But the same is not true for the church.

As Christians we are to love the world as Christ did, welcoming sinners and lepers and everything in between without question. But how good are we really when it comes to welcoming one and all to God's house on Sunday?

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Luke 18:9-14

How would the people listening to Jesus tell this parable have viewed the two men in this story?

If Jesus were telling the story today, who might he have used as examples of the Pharisee and the sinful man?

How did Jesus's appraisal of these two men differ from the way his listeners judged them?

Going back to our movie question - have you ever found a movie to be less than you expected based on its trailer? What movie was it, and why were you so disappointed?

What flaw does this parable expose about judging people based on their appearance?

Read Matthew 7:1-5

Why does Jesus advise us not to pass judgment on others?

How does Jesus say he will judge us?

CHALLENGE

What standards do you see people using to judge new comers in our own church?

Do you think the people in our church "screen" visitors before really reaching out to them?

Judging others isn't restricted to visitors. How do you hear people judging (or should we say gossiping) about their brothers and sisters in Christ?

What kind of damage can such judgments do to our church family?

How can judging others, visitor or member, cause damage to the people we judge?

How do you think God wants visitors and those outside our church to view us as a church body?

How do you think people outside the church actually view us?

Changing the way our church judges others begins with us as individuals. What can we do as individuals to stem the tide of judging others?

Can we come up with a gentle way to steer other people away from gossip and judgment when we hear it?

WRAP UP

Becoming a more loving, less judging church has to begin here with us. If we don't change, we can't expect others to change. The people outside this church are no more sinful than those of us inside the church. We need to remember that Jesus died for them the same as he did for us, and we need to remember we are no better than they in the eyes of God.

Let's pray that God will make us a more welcoming people, beginning with our group and our families, and pray that as a church, we will be a body that welcomes everyone in Jesus's name.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the way we have judged others. We know that we are all sinners, and none of us are better than anyone else who walks through our church doors. Give us open hearts to welcome everyone you send our way.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON SIX

The Single Life

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Michael

SCOTT: Hi, and welcome to The Scotty Love Show. Today we're going to speak to a special kind of person - the single Christian. Joining me today will be my young friend, my own personal Timothy, Michael.

MICHAEL: Hi.

SCOTT: Michael, the Lord made man and woman to be together. So why haven't you gotten married yet?

MICHAEL: Well, I'm kinda busy these days. I work at my uncle's store during the day, and I'm going to night school to get my bachelors degree. And I'm devoting a lot of time to helping kids at an inner city mission.

SCOTT: You hear that? Michael is not married because his priorities are in the wrong place.

MICHAEL: What?

SCOTT: Oh sure, it sounds good. He's going to school. He's doing ministry. But the truth is he's compensating.

MICHAEL: That's not true.

SCOTT: Now admittedly, Michael may be putting on a front. He's not the best looker, so maybe the girls aren't giving him a fair shake.

MICHAEL: Now wait a minute!

SCOTT: But that's no reason to give up!

MICHAEL: I haven't given up! I haven't really tried--

SCOTT: It breaks my heart to see young guys so lost, so hopeless.

MICHAEL: What about what Paul said, about being totally focused on serving God?

SCOTT: Michael needs to refocus on finding his mate. And there are plenty of resources to help, like eharmony, christian cafe, and getyoked.net.

MICHAEL: I was on getyoked.net. It's a scam!

SCOTT: Michael, I know there's a girl out there for you. So quit making excuses. Same goes for all you singles watching today.

MICHAEL: Did my mom put you up to this?

SCOTT: And to all you married folks out there, it's time you step up as well. Play matchmaker. Save a soul from a life of isolation and the bitterness that follows. I'm Scotty Love.

LESSON SIX

Flying Solo

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

ICE BREAKERS

Married guys: What are some things you miss about being single? (Things that you could do before but rarely/never do now.)

Single guys: What are the things you least enjoy about being single?

Married guys: How many of you wish you'd enjoyed your singleness more when you had it and taken more advantage of that freedom you had?

INTRODUCTION

Every church has a different way of handling singles. Some churches offer them special programs. Many don't. Many of those who offer programs do so to help singles hook up and find their perfect helpmate, but is that truly what God wants the church to do for singles?

Paul had some sharp words for singles, and for those who see singles as "incomplete." Single people are better able to respond to the call of the Lord. They have no attachments and no familial obligations that would keep so many married people from answering the call of God. They are better suited for missions, here and abroad, and for ministries that demand a great deal of the folks who undertake them.

Singles need Jesus more than anything else. They need spiritual encouragement more than they need a soulmate. Let's take an honest look at how we and our church view singles and see if God might have us change the way we treat his singles.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

What are some of the arguments you've heard for getting married young?

What are some of the negatives about getting married young?

Married guys: Why do you think married people are so inclined to want to "pair up" their single friends?

Single guys: How does it make you feel when someone comes up and offers to hook you up with the "perfect" person?

Married guys: What are some things you can't do for the Lord because you are married?

Single guys: Are there any ministry activities you couldn't do if you were married?

Single guys: What are some of the temptations you face as a single person that make it harder to follow God?

Married guys: Have those temptations decreased, stayed the same, or increased since you got married?

Single guys: What are some things you wish your married friends understood about you and being single?

Married guys: Are there any lessons you learned from singleness or married life you'd like single guys to know?

How is our church serving the needs of singles?

Are we lifting them up spiritually, are we just facilitating a "meat market," or are we leaving them to their own devices?

Why do you think so many churches neglect the spiritual growth of single people?

How can we as a church better meet the spiritual needs of singles?

How can we as a group encourage the single men in our group and the rest of our church?

WRAP UP

God has a plan for every stage of our lives. That includes being married and having a family, and the time that comes before - being single.

If you're married, don't be the guy who convinces God's servant to rush into something ahead of God's time. And if you're single, don't be rushed by peer pressure or loneliness. Commit your heart to the Lord. Serve where he leads. Be content to wait on his choice for you. And be nice to your married friends. They do mean well, even if they are misguided.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the way you speak to us at every stage of our lives. Bless the singles in our group and in our church. Help our singles to stay focused on you, and help our married couples to encourage singles to keep you first in their lives.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON SEVEN

Purity of Heart

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Don

Amanda

SCOTT: Welcome to the Scotty Love Show. I'm Scotty Love. Today we're going to talk about moral purity. There's a lot of talk about adult entertainment these days, and there are quite a few people in the church that don't see the harm in a little eye candy. After all, it's not like you're sleeping with Little Olga from Russia. So what's the big deal? My buddy Don and I discussed this very issue the other night at small groups, and Don asked if we could continue our talk on the show. Don?

DON: Scott.

SCOTT: So what's the big deal, Don? I love my wife. I'm not fooling around on her. So what's the big deal if I spend some time online with little Olga?

DON: The big deal, Scott, is you're taking something that doesn't belong to you. God made sex for one man and one woman. He made you for your wife and little Olga for another man. So you're not only stealing from Olga's mate, you're stealing from your wife, emotionally speaking.

SCOTT: But Olga and I aren't actually together in real life. It's the Internet! We're two consenting adults having a little harmless fun in our minds. It's not like we're committing adultery.

DON: So you don't think it's adultery?

SCOTT: Not at all. There's no reason a responsible adult can't partake of these things.

DON: Prove it.

SCOTT: Prove it?

DON: Yeah, prove it. If there's nothing wrong with it, why don't you bring one on the line with us?

SCOTT: What right now? On the show?

DON: There's nothing wrong with that, right?

SCOTT: No. Not at all. In fact I have a chat invite on my desktop right now.

DON: Well what are you waiting for? Open it!

SCOTT: Okay, if you insist.

Amanda comes on.

AMANDA: Hi, big boy!

SCOTT: Amanda????

AMANDA: Dad????

SCOTT: Amanda, what are you doing?

AMANDA: Oh, so now that I'm in trouble, you remember my name?

SCOTT: Answer the question and tell me what you're doing!

AMANDA: I'm trying to make some money!

SCOTT: I send you money every week!

AMANDA: I can't live on the ten dollar a week allowance, Dad! I'm in college!

SCOTT: I can't believe you would do something so... filthy!

AMANDA: Me? What about you? What are you doing on here?

SCOTT: Me? I, uh...

DON: He's a consenting adult having a little harmless fun in his mind.

AMANDA: Dad, how could you? Does mom know about this?

SCOTT: Mom? No, and you better not tell her. And you better get off here now!

AMANDA: You can't tell me what to do.

SCOTT: You're my daughter!

DON: You know, Scott, every girl on those websites is someone's little girl.

SCOTT: Stay out of this, Don!

DON: And by the way, Jesus said lust in the heart is as bad as lust in real life. So technically, yes, you are an adulterer.

SCOTT: That's it, show's over! I'm coming up to that college and yanking that computer out of the wall!

Scott storms off. He steps back into the shot.

SCOTT: This is Scotty Love.

AMANDA: Kapowski!

SCOTT: Get off the webcam, Amanda!

LESSON SEVEN

Guard Your Heart

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Matthew 5:27-28.

ICE BREAKERS

What's your favorite guilty pleasure food?

Do you have a guilty pleasure movie or TV show? What is it? What is it about that movie/show you love?

What other guilty pleasures do you enjoy?

INTRODUCTION

As Christians we know that Jesus has paid the price for our sin, but Paul urged the early church not to take their forgiven status for granted. The blood of Christ doesn't give us a license to sin. Jesus wants us to be transformed from the inside out. Keeping our insides cleaned requires us to put a filter on all we bring into our hearts.

It's harder than ever to keep our hearts pure because technology has made sinful material so much easier to access. Hardcore porn is available free of charge, 24/7, on any device. Many men truly believe that anything other than the physical act of adultery is acceptable, but Jesus doesn't give us that option. (Matthew 5:28.) We need to guard our hearts and minds, and that starts by guarding our eyes and ears.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

What does Paul mean when he says everything is permissible but not beneficial?

What does Paul say about our bodies?

What does God want our bodies for?

Re-read verse 15, then read Matthew 5:27-28.

How do these verses re-define the sin of adultery?

Why is it important that we not merely avoid the physical act of adultery but avoid lusting in our minds?

Do you think sinful thoughts lead to sinful actions? Why or why not?

CHALLENGE

Honesty time: how many of you have seen porn on the Internet, either intentionally or by accident?

How many of you have intentionally looked for porn on the Internet or other outlets? How quickly can you find it if you want it?

Has pornographic material had an impact on your relationships with women? How so?

Many of the women and men involved on porn sites are not there because they want to be. They are overseas, where laws are different, and they are forced to do such work. Those that work in this country are often victims of abuse, many have addictions to drugs and alcohol, and many suffer from STDs. How does patronizing such material perpetuate the suffering of these people and others trapped in the sex trade?

When are you the most tempted to look at something pornographic?

Have any of you used any filters or other safeguards to help avoid that temptation?

What can we do to keep each other accountable so that we will not be tempted to sin?

WRAP UP

Anyone who believes porn is a victimless, private affair is deceiving themselves. Over time porn can lead to a lack of satisfaction with your wife, and it can lead you to cross over to the physical act of adultery.

What's more, porn helps to fuel the multi-billion dollar sex industries around the world including porn, prostitution, and sex slavery. When we give our money or just our time to porn, we are not merely committing adultery. We are just as guilty to exploiting those trapped in sex slavery as those who put them there.

Make a commitment to keep your heart and mind pure. Do it for God, and for your spouse. Do it for those who are held captive in a life they can't escape. When the temptation comes, pray for God to give you strength, and pray for God to end the sex trade for good.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for giving our bodies and minds over to sin. Teach us to be strong, to run to you when we are tempted. Help us keep our minds and bodies pure. We pray too for those trapped in sex trafficking. We ask you to bring an end to sex trafficking, and we ask that you will use us to educate others about this horrible crime.

In Jesus's name,

Amen

LESSON EIGHT

Integrity

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Don

SCOTT: Hello, and welcome again to The Scotty Love Show. I'm Scotty Love, and today I am joined by my good friend Don.

DON: Hey.

SCOTT: Don's a good friend and a member of my small group, and he's also a client. I handle all of Don's investments, and if I do say so myself, Don is doing very well.

DON: Thanks to you.

SCOTT: I invited him here to discuss a very important topic: personal integrity. Is it important? Or is it over-rated?

DON: Scott, personal integrity is what sets us apart from others. Being honest, forthright, and truthful in all of our business dealings is not only the right thing to do, it's a great witness.

SCOTT: But don't you agree that sometimes, in business, a little fudging of numbers or a harmless white lie is okay?

DON: No. No I don't.

SCOTT: Come on, Don. You're a handi-man. Surely you've cut a few corners in your day.

DON: Not me.

SCOTT: Not even a little?

DON: Even if it costs me a few extra bucks, I make sure I do top of the line work.

Scott snickers.

DON: Why is that so hard to believe?

SCOTT: Come on, Don. You're doing it right now.

DON: Doing what?

SCOTT: Telling little white lies.

DON: I am not!

SCOTT: It's no big deal. We all do it. And no one ever notices.

DON: Yes they do.

SCOTT: You don't.

Scott covers his mouth.

DON: What???

SCOTT: I'd like to thank my good buddy Don for being here.

DON: What do you mean I don't notice? What have you done?

SCOTT: Nothing major.

DON: Did you steal from me?

SCOTT: C'mon, Don, what's a few percentage points between friends?

DON: How many points, Scott?

SCOTT: Thanks for joining us. Until next time--

DON: How many points, Scott?

LESSON EIGHT

Liar Liar

Key Scripture: Proverbs 6:16-19, Colossians 3:9-10.

If you could choose one profession - lawyer, politician, Hollywood actor - whom would you say you least respect as a group?

What is it about those groups that makes them so hard to respect?

Who is someone you know that you admire and respect? What makes that person so admirable?

INTRODUCTION

Integrity is one of the rarest and most valuable characteristics a man can have. It's also one of the most fragile. Integrity takes a lifetime to establish and build, but it only takes one mistake to destroy.

What's more, one person's stumble can be the downfall for an entire group. We assume all politicians lie because we've seen so many lie. And we assume all Hollywood actors to be hypocritical, drugged out train wrecks because so many turned out to be just that. And many people assume all Christians are hypocrites because they've met people like Scotty Love.

The world has come to a point where pretty much everyone is expected to lie and fudge a little. God wants us to be different. He wants us to stand out. Nothing will make us stand out more than being men of integrity, men our families, churches, co-workers, and friends can always trust.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Proverbs 6:16-19

What does God think of lying?

What are some of the other things God hates as much as lying?

Why do you think God equates lying to shedding innocent blood, plotting evil, or causing divisions and discord?

Do you think this hatred extends to little white lies, half truths, and the like? Why or why not?

What other ways do we deceive people besides lying?

Read Colossians 3:9-10

Why is it incumbent on Christians to be people who tell the truth?

CHALLENGE

What are some of the reasons why people tell lies?

Why would Christians lie to one another?

Has someone you know or admire ever let you down by having their lack of integrity exposed?

What did it take for that person to regain your trust - or did they?

Why is it so hard to put faith in people who have deceived us?

Is lying essential in certain careers? Why or why not?

Is it possible to be completely truthful no matter what your occupation? What consequences might a person suffer for being honest at all times?

Are those consequences worth the loss of integrity?

Is there anything you'd trade your integrity to gain? What else might you lose in addition to your integrity if you did?

WRAP UP

Being honest can cost you dearly. It can cost you money, your job, or any number of worldly desires. But once you've sold your integrity for worldly gain, it's nearly impossible to get back. A good reputation is the most valuable resource in the world. Not only does it mark you as a man who can be trusted, it makes you a light for Christ

in a world of liars. Don't trade your integrity for temporary gains. Stay honest, be truthful, and store your treasure up in Heaven.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times we compromise and choose worldly things over you. Give us the courage to tell the truth and be different, and help us to guard our reputations as godly husbands, fathers, and men.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

LESSON NINE

Praying For You

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Amanda

SCOTT: Welcome to The Scotty Love Show. I'm Scotty Love. I'm here today with my daughter Angela.

AMANDA: Angela??

SCOTT I've invited Angela back to discuss prayer.

AMANDA: My name's Amanda, Dad.

SCOTT: Angela, what is the most important thing you can do for a person who needs or asks for prayer?

AMANDA: Okay, I'll play along. I'm gonna take a wild guess and say, "Pray for them."

SCOTT: And your wild guess would be wrong. No, Michael, the most important thing to do is tell them, "I am praying for you."

AMANDA: Really? You don't think it's more important to actually pray for someone?

SCOTT: No, Angela, I don't. You see when you tell a believer you are praying for them, it's a way of giving encouragement. And when you tell a non-believer you're praying for them, it's a form of witnessing, and it makes them feel that God has their back.

AMANDA: So basically, it's all about making yourself look holy?

SCOTT: No, no, no. It's not about looking holy. It's being the holy person you are.

AMANDA: But what good is saying you're going to pray if you don't actually pray?

SCOTT: Come on, Angela, let's be honest. Who has time to pray over every little bump or scrape or cancer scare?

AMANDA: A true believer who puts others ahead of themselves?

SCOTT: I am putting others ahead of myself. I'm pointing them to God, right?

AMANDA: But I always thought that before you could tell someone you're praying for them, you had to become a person who prays. Otherwise, you would be a liar.

SCOTT: Oh Angela, you have so much to learn.

AMANDA: Says the man who can't even remember his own daughter's name.

SCOTT: Well, that's about all the time we have on The Scotty Love Show. A special thanks once again to my ignorant daughter Angela for joining us.

AMANDA: You know what? Forget it. Just go on and do your own thing. You'd only be praying for the wrong people by name anyway.

SCOTT: I'm Scotty Love, and guess what? I am praying for you!

LESSON NINE

Men of Action

Key Scripture: Matthew 21:28-32, Matthew 5:33-37.

ICE BREAKERS

How good are you at delegating things to other people? Do you trust others to get things done, or do you prefer to do it all on your own?

How does it feel when someone says they will do something and let you down?

Have you ever dropped the ball on an important task? What did (or didn't) you do, and what happened as a result?

INTRODUCTION

Are you all talk, or are you a man of action? It's one thing to say you're going to do something, but it's quite another to follow through. The world is full of people who make empty promises they will never fulfill, and the church has more than a few empty talkers as well.

God wants us to be men of action. When we say we're going to pray for someone, we will. When we say we will be some place, we show up. We don't say yes out of obligation and look for excuses to back out later, and we don't give a half-hearted effort. When we say yes, we mean yes. We show up and we take care of business not because we want a reward, but because we are men of action!

READ AND DISCUSS

Read Matthew 21:28-32

Why was the man in this story more pleased with the son who said he wouldn't help?

In what way did the Pharisees fail to do what they pledged they would do for God?

What was Jesus trying to tell the Pharisees - and us - in this parable?

Read Matthew 5:33-37

How does Jesus want us to answer requests from others?

Why do you think Jesus said we should not swear oaths or make vows?

What does God want to see us do rather than making promises?

CHALLENGE

How often do you say you will pray someone and you never do?

How often do you say yes to something only to back out or drop the ball later?

How can saying "Yes" and backing out later hurt our witness for Christ?

When people say yes and don't mean it, there is usually a reason. Some are people pleasers. Some are just following the crowd. Some are afraid to say no, and some are just being polite. What causes you to say yes when you'd rather say no?

Why do you think saying "No" is such a struggle for people in general?

Is it ever okay to say "No" to praying for someone? How can we make sure that particular yes is one we always fulfill?

When people ask for more than prayer, how can we gracefully say "No" when we need to say no?

At the end of the day, what do you think makes more impact - telling someone we will help, or actually helping out?

WRAP UP

God didn't call us to be people of words. He wants us to be men of action. When you say yes, don't look for excuses, and don't give a half-hearted effort. Let your yes be yes, and follow through.

Don't over-commit yourself, and be honest from the start when you are unable to lend a hand. As Jesus said, it's better to say no and then help out than to let someone down with a polite yes.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Don't be a man of empty words. Preach the gospel by your actions!

PRAYER

Dear God,

Make us men who do what we say, and do everything we undertake as if we were working for you. Forgive us for the times we fall short. Teach us to say no when necessary, and use us to spread your Word through our actions.

In Jesus's name,

Amen

LESSON TEN

Talk to Your Kids

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/scottylove

CHARACTERS

Scott

Randy

Sean

SCOTT: Welcome back to The Scotty Love Show. Today we're talking about talking! Specifically, how do you talk to your kids about those touchy issues. No parent likes to talk to their kids about things like alcohol or drugs, but it's important we do so in a way that helps them learn to be better decision makers. To demonstrate, I have invited my pal Randy to come here with his son Sean.

SEAN: What are we doing again?

RANDY: I told you, we're on my dumb friend's web show. Play along and I'll get you a burger later.

SEAN: Sweet.

SCOTT: Randy here wants to make sure his son makes wise choices, so today, the two of them are going to discuss a three letter word that rhymes with X.

SEAN: You mean sex?

SCOTT: Randy, how would you handle this topic with Sean?

RANDY: Sean, the Lord wants you to save sex for marriage.

SEAN: Got it.

SCOTT: Whoa, whoa, whoa, Randy, that's not how you do it. You can't just come out and SAY things like that.

RANDY: Why not?

SCOTT: For one thing, normal people have a problem saying the S-Dash-Dash word in front of their kids.

RANDY: Oh boy.

SCOTT: You need to hint at it, be vague, dance around the word.

RANDY: But I want him to understand what we're talking about.

SCOTT: He'll understand, trust me. Here, let me try. Sean, you're at a certain age when you're feeling certain urges. They're perfectly natural, and you're not abnormal for having them.

SEAN: I know.

SCOTT: No, Sean, you're supposed to ask what I mean by that?

SEAN: Do I have to?

SCOTT: Yes! Come on, this is for the folks at home.

SEAN: Fine. What do you mean by that?

SCOTT: Good. Then I would say, Sean, I know you're going to want to give into these urges, but the Lord will hate you if you do.

RANDY: No he won't!

SCOTT: I know that, but you have to say these things to scare them!

RANDY: Why can't a parent have a direct honest conversation about things where father and son, or mother and daughter, can say the word sex and be honest about it?

SCOTT: Because this isn't the movies. This is real life!

RANDY: So is this. Sean, save yourself for marriage. It's the Lord's will, and it will save you and the girls you date from a lot of unnecessary pain. Understood?

SEAN: Yes, sir. Can we get a burger now?

RANDY: Yes we can.

SCOTT: I guess some folks will never learn. Thanks for joining us. I'm Scotty Love, and I'm flabbergasted.

LESSON TEN

Speak Up!

Key Scripture:

ICE BREAKERS

When it's election year, are you one of the quiet ones, or do you love to argue?

What other topics can get you going on a soap box? Movies you love or hate? Music? TV? Books?

How many of you have at least one good friend whom you completely disagree with on either religion or politics? How do you make that friendship work?

INTRODUCTION

Back in the 80's, President Ronald Reagan spent most of his days battling over the issues with Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil. When the day was over, O'Neil would visit the White House to drink whiskey, tell jokes, and sing some old Irish songs.

You'd be hard pressed to find people in today's America that can bury the hatchet like Reagan and O'Neil. The prevailing attitude seems to be, "If you disagree with me, you hate me, therefore, we can't be friends." State the "wrong" opinion on anything from abortion to pop music and your Facebook friend list might drop 20% in a day!

Jesus wants us to speak the truth, as written in his Word. He wants us to share it with our kids, our neighbors, our world. It's not easy speaking a truth the world doesn't want to hear, but the answer isn't to fudge our way around it. We need to speak the truth, and we need to do so with love.

READ AND DISCUSS

Ephesians 4:14-15

Why is speaking the truth a necessary part of Christian maturity?

Do you think you have to water down the truth to speak in love? Why or why not?

Luke 9:23-26

What does it take to be a disciple of Christ?

What does Jesus say to those who refuse to speak out against the ways of the world?

Why would Jesus be so harsh in holding those who stay silent accountable?

If we do not speak out, what's at stake? Why does Jesus want us to tell this rebellious world what he has to say?

CHALLENGE

How easy is it for you to discuss these topics:

Immigration?

The Environment?

Abortion?

Marriage?

Creation vs. Evolution?

Christianity vs. other faiths?

Have you ever lost a friend over something you or they said about something you believe?

Have you ever felt like the only person in the room that believed differently than everyone else? How did that feel?

Parents: What topics are hardest for you to discuss openly with your kids? Why do you feel so squeamish about those subjects?

Why doesn't God give us the option of staying silent?

Why is it so critical to share the truth directly with our kids?

How can we speak the truth with boldness and love, knowing we may lose friends over it?

How can we support one another when one of our group has to speak out on a difficult subject?

WRAP UP

The Bible says to consider it pure joy when we are persecuted as Jesus was. That's easier said than done. No one feels joy when they get unfriended in cyber space or worse, when someone tells us to our face they no longer wish to hear from us. We can't control how people respond to the gospel, but that doesn't give us an out. Jesus gave us his Word to share with others. We are his hands and feet, and we are the only ones who can continue to speak the truth. Let us speak boldly, and let us speak with love. The world doesn't want to hear it, but they will never know how badly they need it unless we do speak up!

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for hiding in the shadows. Give us the courage to speak up. Give us friends to support us when we share your truth. And when we speak, help us to always do so in love. Use us to share your truth with a world that needs it.

In Jesus's name,
Amen

About the Author

John Cospers is the founder of Righteous Insanity, a drama and film company providing resources to churches and ministries around the world. He is the head curriculum writer for Children's Ministry Deals, and he also writes science fiction and film. Other works of fiction include *Company Man*, *Martian Queen*, *Cave World*, and *Space Monster*. He lives in Southern Indiana with his wife and children.

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