

Commandment Seven*

- ▶ **Main Point:** Learn about the special gift of sexuality. Sex was given to adults as a gift to be enjoyed only in marriage, as a sign of commitment and trust (1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 and Exodus 20:14).
- ▶ **Preparation:** You'll need your child's favorite candy beautifully wrapped, masking tape, and a Bible.
- ▶ **Suggested Age:** Pre-Teen
- ▶ **Estimated Time:** 20 minutes

Step One:

Choose a favorite candy or toy to give each family member and wrap each in wrapping paper and decorate with ribbons and bows. Make the packages as pretty as you can. Write the name of the gift recipient on each package.

Step Two:

When everyone is in the room, give a wrong gift to each family member and have him or her open it. When the gifts are all opened, say something like, "oops, these were given to the wrong person," and hand out the masking tape so family members can quickly rewrap the gifts and give them to their rightful recipients. Once again, have family members open their gifts. Then ask, "How did it feel to receive a present that was already opened?"

Step Three:

Explain to your children that television, movies, and music teach us that sex is something that is fun—and that it's okay for people to enjoy even if they're not married. Well, they got it half right: sex is fun. God thought it up in the first place, but it was intended only for people who have made the commitment of a lifetime together through marriage. Sex is a gift from God to adults that is meant for marriage only, not before marriage or outside of marriage. When people choose to open the gift of sexuality before marriage, they take away the special-ness of that gift from their husband or wife.

Step Four:

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 and Exodus 20:14. Ask your children, "Why do you think God made this a commandment?" Spend some time talking about how sex outside of marriage a) takes advantage of another person and makes them objects rather than individuals, b) leads to guilt, c) includes the risk of unwanted pregnancy and STDs, d) is in direct disobedience of God's Word, and e) is a violation of the "temple of God"—our bodies. Remind them that there is more than just a physical component to sex, but that there is a spiritual element as well. The excitement of "discovering/opening" the gift together is something God wants for all people who someday marry.

*From "Ten Commandments Family Night Tool Chest" at www.HeritageBuilders.com.