

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

“To flee vice is the beginning of virtue.” - Horace

SERIES OVERVIEW

Throughout church history, the seven deadly sins were used as a rubric for self-examination. Great theologians (Aquinas, Augustine, Gregory) have studied the vices in order to pinpoint their own shortcomings. We study the vices in order to do the same thing – to see where we are weak and where we need work. This dying to the old self (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-14) and rising to new life in Christ is *the* moral project for a Christian.

We will study each of the seven deadly sins, and try to understand them within their original historical meaning. We will relate each vice to its source, the vice of pride, and will identify offspring vices from the seven, and try to identify where these vices appear in our daily lives. We will look at practical steps we can take to learn how to flee vice toward virtue.

This series is designed for a high school small group setting. Each lesson can be taught in as little as half an hour, though allowing an hour to an hour and a half for additional illustrations and discussion is helpful.

SERIES LESSONS

Week 1: What are the Seven Deadly Sins?

Week 2: Envy

Week 3: Vainglory

Week 4: Sloth

Week 5: Avarice

Week 6: Wrath

Week 7: Gluttony

Week 8: Lust

SERIES OBJECTIVES

WHAT: God wants us to live our lives with virtue. As Christians, we're called to be known and respected for our decisions and actions.

WHY: It's important to learn to identify vice in our lives in order to resist the temptation toward those actions.

HOW: Students will be encouraged to pursue lives of holiness that honor God by fleeing the vices.