

American Idols group study guide

by Dawn Owens

Session 11: The Burger King Way

RULES FOR THE ROAD:

These studies are designed to be as user-friendly as possible so that you as a group leader will need only to download, browse through, possibly do some light preparations, and head to the study. In order to facilitate ease of use, cues are provided throughout the study to indicate:

1. when you read aloud to the group (**Bold text**),
2. when you ask questions to the group (*bulleted italics*), or
3. when you have the group or individual group members read (Underline text).

There is no "student guide" for the use of group members. Their primary tools will be the book, *American Idols*, their Bibles, and an occasional handout provided by you (provided in each group study).

Please note also that the studies are set up with the assumption that some participants will not have read the *American Idols* chapter prior to doing the study. Therefore, there may be times that pieces of the text will need to be copied for them to follow along.

PACKING YOUR BAGS:

1. In Round 2 there is a list of ten "choices". Copy or write each choice on a 3 x 5 card. Directions for the accompanying game are found in Round 2.
2. Have Bibles available in case someone comes to the study without a Bible.
3. Bring a few extra pens and paper for them to take notes as necessary.

MEETING THE CAST:

Begin by asking everyone to state his or her first and last name, and respond *briefly* to the questions,

- *Given the choice between a meal at Burger King or McDonald's, which would you choose? Why?*

Explain that you'll go first so others have time to think (which also gives you the opportunity to show by example how briefly you expect others to respond), then proceed around the circle.

After everyone has had a chance to respond, take a few moments to open this study in prayer.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S EPISODE:

Last week's study talked not only about the sanctity of sex in marriage but how we are to guard ourselves against sex in society. God's plan for all of mankind is for sex to be sacred, yet through the use of pornography, magazines, books, movies, and TV, Satan has corrupted what God intended to be pure and holy.

- *Does anyone remember what biblical character the author used to show us how weak we can become when we let sexual idolatry get in our way of God?*
- *What are some of the tools we can use to guard ourselves against immorality?*
- *What has the Lord revealed to you this week about how this idol affects your life?*

ROUND 1:

Before we commence studying our idol for today, I want us to go to the end of chapter eleven in the *American Idols* book. The author makes a significant point in the paragraphs located at the bottom of page 152. As we embark on studying yet another idol, I believe it is important for us to take a step back and recognize the purpose of this book.

Ask someone to read the two paragraphs under the heading "The Choice is Yours."

- *What do you believe is the main message of these paragraphs?*
- *Why do you think it might be important for us to read these words before we begin today?*
- *Does anyone recognize any irony in our study of this particular chapter? [Note to leader: the next paragraph explains]*

One irony of this chapter is that the subject is choice. The author points out in these paragraphs that as we review each chapter, we have the choice to repent or move on. The issue is not whether you need to repent because of the chapter's subject matter; the issue becomes whether we focus too much on our right to make a choice either way.

Let's take a step back now and head to the beginning of the chapter. The author introduces the idol of choice by sharing with us the story of Herman.

- *Who was Herman and what did he experience when he went to the supermarket?*
- *What do you think Herman's experience shows us about our American "right" to choose?*

Herman is used as a catalyst for us to take a deeper look into our need to be able to make choices. It is a way of life for us in which we can often times take for granted.

- *Are there any experiences you can think of when choice became a big deal for you?*

On page 148 our author points out that choice can be either a blessing or a curse.

- *Is there an example you can think of when making a choice can be a blessing?*
- *Is there an example you can think of when making a choice can be a curse?*

ROUND 2:

Let's play a game. I am going to hold up a 3 x 5 card that has a "choice" on it. You can yell out to me if you think that choice is a blessing or a curse either to you personally or to society as a whole. There are no right or wrong answers; this is just an opportunity to share your opinions about choices we have today.

Make sure each choice is placed on a 3 x 5 card. Hold up a choice card and ask whether they think the choice is a blessing or a curse. If the group is unanimous, ask someone to say why they chose that answer. If the group is split, ask one person to share why he or she chose "blessing" and one person to pick why he or she chose "curse."

CHOICES (Place each choice on a 3x 5 card)

1. Different types of writing utensils
2. College

3. Marriage
4. Abortion
5. Drug use
6. Internet providers
7. Restaurants
8. Political parties
9. Belief in Jesus Christ
10. Reading materials

THE JUDGES REVIEW:

Let's open our bibles now to study what the Word of God has to say about our ability to choose.

Have someone read 1 Kings 16-40

- *What was the choice given to the people by Elijah in verse 21?*
- *Why do you think this choice was important for the people to respond to?*
- *Can you think of a time in your life when God gave you a similar choice? Explain.*

Have someone read Proverbs 8:1-11

- *Who or what is the "she" that the author is speaking of in this Proverb?*
- *In verses 5-9, what are the things she says man should do?*
- *In verse 10, she gives four options. What are they? (Instruction, silver, knowledge, gold)*
- *What do you think these things might represent today?*

Have someone read Galatians 5:16-26

- *What do you think is the message in these scriptures?*
- *Do you think these verses relate to making choices? If so, how? If not, why?*
- *What do you think the choices are, as stated in these verses?*
- *How can you relate these verses to a situation you are dealing with now?*

THE VOTES ARE IN:

Just as Adam and Eve were given the choice to eat of any fruit in the Garden of Eden, we too are given the freedom to choose. However, it is how we view our choices that can become an issue.

- *What is one principle you learned from our study today that applies to making choices?*
- *How has your perspective changed, if at all, on making an idol of your choices?*
- *What challenges do you think you might encounter the next time you have a choice to make?*

COMMERCIAL BREAK:

As we end our study time today, let's pray together, asking God to continue to reveal to us the areas of our lives where choice has become an idol for us. At this point, you can either ask someone to pray for the group or pray for the group yourself.

PREVIEWS OF NEXT WEEK:

- Next meeting's time, date and location:
- Assignment: Read chapter 12 of *American Idols*.