

If your students are using *What (Almost) Nobody Will Tell You about Sex*, you can direct them to *Being "Careful"* (page 80).

The implication of verse 14 puts the emphasis on thinking ahead about how to gratify ourselves wrongly.

**Q:** What percentage of sexual encounters do you think really just happen with no forethought, no planning, and no setup by either party?

0% because...

50% because...

100% because...

case study  
**BEING "CAREFUL"**

*The need to be "careful," but in the right way.*

Read the following story aloud to your students.

A few months after his prom night, my friend Jim told me what it was like for him to have sex the first time: "I guess there wasn't really a moment when I decided, but it was like a process of decisions leading up to it. I'd been going out with this girl for a few weeks. Our physical relationship got way ahead of everything else—we hardly even talked sometimes. I figured sex might just happen, if the night was good enough—and prom night is usually kind of special.

"I know I needed to be 'careful' so I bought my first condoms. So that's a big step for me, I guess. And when it finally came down to it, it was kind of clinical, actually—there were so many more factors that went through my head. I needed to find a place and a time. A place where we could get alone and no one would find out. It ended up being some kind of an operation, where I had to take care of a whole bunch of logistical factors instead of just letting that moment I'd planned on take control.

"I was really at odds with what I was believing and what I was doing. They were two totally different things."

**Q:** What stands out for you about this story?

**Q:** What do you think he meant at the end by saying what he was believing and what he was doing didn't match up?

**Q:** What do you think of the argument that says, "If you can't be good, at least be careful"?

- What do you think people mean when they talk about being careful?

**Q:** What do you believe God thinks about that?

If you think about the word *careful*, it basically means being full of care. It's too bad that when it comes to sex, being careful has been reduced to making sure you use some form of protection during sex. In reality, being careful should mean being full of care for the people involved in your sexual decisions—meaning yourself, the other person—oh, and God.

And here's a mind-blowing thought. What if you based your sexual actions on what was the best and most caring thing for your future spouse? How might that affect the sexual boundaries you create for yourself?

If it feels appropriate, give students some time to reflect on what kind of stories they'd like to be able to tell their future spouse about all of their sexual behavior leading up to their wedding night. For students who have already had sex, remind