

parts in that case. He wants to show that lust is such a radical sin that it requires a radical response. The people who first heard his words would have a shared cultural belief that the right eye and right hand were more valuable than the left, making the consequences of lust even more extreme.

Q: What do you think about this? Why?

Q: Let's ask the questions again. Do you think Alicia was lusting? Why?

- Do you think Fox was lusting? Why?
- Do you think Juanita was lusting?
- When does daydreaming turn to lust?

Q: Do you have any experience with daydreams turning to lust? If so, how do you think it happened?

Q: Do you identify with any of the three characters? Why?

Consider how the following passages relate to that character. Now, read Romans 6:11-13 aloud.

Q: The verb tense of "do not let sin reign" in Romans 6:12 is the present tense, implying that it's a daily, ongoing decision to offer the parts of your body to God instead of to sin. Paul offers no middle ground between offering ourselves to God and offering ourselves to sin. What would "do not let sin reign" mean for the character most like you?

Q: How would your character offer the parts of his or her body to righteousness?

Now read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

Q: Paul describes a difference between people who know God and those who don't. Why does God care about how your character responds to his sexual desires?

Q: If your character wanted to learn from someone else what it means to control his own body, what examples might he or she turn to?

Finally, read Colossians 3:5 out loud.

Q: Any time there's a *therefore* in Scripture, we have to look to previous verses. So we really need to read Colossians 3:1-4 also. Many of the verbs in this passage describe what believers already are—they have died, they have been raised with Christ, their lives are now hidden in Christ. But another verb is used twice to describe what believers should then be able to do, namely set their hearts on things above. Okay, forget about your character and answer for yourself, if you haven't already begun to do so: What do you think it means for you to have died with Christ?

- How do you think setting your heart on things above might affect your sexual imagination?

Q: If you could live in the reality of Colossians 3:1-5, what, if anything, would change in your life?

One time—actually, a series of times—I tried to deal with a sexual temptation by pledging to give \$100 to missions every time I gave in. Well, not only did I give in, but I failed to follow through with my pledge—no single missions organization got any richer. I wish I had just memorized and lived out Colossians 3:1-5, instead.