

**Q:** Put yourself in the shoes of the person telling the story that we read before. What are the possible consequences—good and bad—if Julia declines to give in to Max's advances? Be as specific as you can.

**Q:** What are some possible consequences—good and bad—if Julia gives Max what he wants? Be specific.

talk and Bible study  
**SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS**

*Straight talk about lust and what Jesus would say about it.*

Alicia, Fox, and Juanita live on the same block and go to the same school. When they were younger, they used to ride bikes together in the neighborhood, but now they've drifted apart. They're into different things at school and have totally different friends now, so they barely say *hi* anymore when they bump into each other between classes or at lunch.

But if you could look into their rooms after school, you'd see they still have a lot in common.

Alicia sits in her bedroom, watching soaps on the TV she talked her parents into buying for her birthday. The people on the screen are undressing each other, though Alicia doesn't actually see them naked, and in the next shot they're under the covers and there's no doubt what they're doing. Alicia's eyes, ears, and emotions are riveted to the screen.

Fox grabs chips and a Mountain Dew, ducks a homework question from his mom, and heads up to his room. He pulls a sports magazine from the lining of his gym bag, but this issue has less to do with baseball and more to do with swimwear—if you catch my drift. He locks the door, flops down on the bed, and opens the magazine.

Juanita sits on her bed, listening to the radio. She can't stop thinking about her conversation with Brad. He is impossibly cute and seemed really interested in what she was doing after school. She wonders what it would be like to go out with him. She closes her eyes and imagines him coming over. She sees herself opening the door and it's Brad, in an oversized sweater and jeans. "Hey," he says, lifting his chin the tiniest bit as he speaks. And a faint smile dances around his eyes.

**Q:** Do you think Alicia is lusting? Explain your answer.

- Do you think Fox is lusting? Why?
- What about Juanita—do you think she's lusting? Why?

**Q:** Do you believe there's a difference between lusting and merely daydreaming? If so, what is it?

Now read Matthew 5:27-30 aloud—

**Q:** What do you think Jesus is getting at here?

- What would you say is his definition of adultery?

**A thought about Matthew 5:27-30.**

In verse 27 Jesus quotes Exodus 20:14, but his real goal is to show the true meaning of the commandment against adultery. As he often did, Jesus focuses here on people's hearts, not just their actions. He defines lust as imagining a forbidden sexual relationship. It's doubtful Jesus literally wants people to gouge out eyes or cut off hands if they cause them to sin. We'd all be shy some body