



# DECEMBER



## IMPORTANT DATES:

12/19 - christmas tnl

12/26 - no tnl

1/2 - no tnl

1/12 - light mtng



DECEMBER 11TH

# Influence

PURITY PT ONE

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet”

John 13:14

*For our final week in our influence series we will be talking about purity.*

1. Without looking in the dictionary or online, write down your own definition of purity. If you do not have one, write down what you know about “purity.”

Let me give you my definition of purity: “I’m not just talking about waiting to cross the BIG line before you’re married, although that’s certainly a part of remaining pure. I’m talking about waiting on God’s timing for romance, maintaining standards of physical contact that reserve the very best of you for marriage, and protecting your heart and mind from ideas about love that don’t line up with God’s standards. Under that definition of purity, we all have work to do.”

2. After reading the above definition, list the many areas of life where we have to fight for and guard our purity?

3. Some girls have said, “I am committed to purity UNTIL a cute boy who I really like pays attention to me.” What are some other reasons girls may make a commitment to purity but later make an excuse to break it?

4. Read Galatians 6:9. What does this verse tell us about maintaining our purity?

5. Maintaining our purity is going to be very difficult. It is important for you to think through weak spots in your battle plan for purity and to allow others to encourage you to keep doing good. Therefore, please bravely fill in the following sentence: (you will not have to share unless you want to).

I find it easy to stick to God's standards for purity until...

6. Find 2 other verses in the Bible that discuss "Purity" and write them below.

*If you have made a past mistake or are currently making mistakes now in protecting your purity, know that is it not too late to change. Jesus loves and forgives those who repent and turn to Him. We encourage you to talk to your small group leader or Macie about this so that we can pray for you, and help you fight in this battle for your purity! We love you!*

DECEMBER 14TH

# Influence

PURITY PT TWO

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet”  
John 13:14

*Read the attached article, 8 Ways to Fight for Purity. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.*

## Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “purity” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about purity was...

One question I still have about purity is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## 8 Ways to Fight for Purity

I want to fight for purity, and I pray that each and every one of you do as well. But let's be real with one another: Maintaining purity isn't easy. Unless we are vigilant in fighting for purity from the inside out, we will fail. We will give in to temptation. We will succumb to our sinful hearts. We desperately need Jesus to help us focus on truth and resist temptation.

With our need for Jesus in mind, here are eight tips to help you fight for purity.

### 1. *Get in the Word.*

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb. 4:12).*

God's Word has power! We need to open up our Bibles and fill our minds with Scripture on a daily basis. This is the most important weapon in our arsenal in the fight for purity.

### 2. *Pray for strength.*

God is the ruler of all creation. We need to cry out to Him through prayer and ask for protection, strength, and courage to remain strong. He's given us access to Him through the Holy Spirit, and we need to take advantage.

Isaiah 40:28 gives us a reminder of just how great He is.

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?*

*The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.*

How amazing that we have the privilege of praying to that God! Let's make prayer a part of daily fight for purity.

### 3. *Take up your shield of faith.*

*In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one (Eph. 6:16).*

We are in a battle, girls! We need the armor of God, including the shield of faith.

I love this perspective: “We give in to temptation when we believe what it has to offer is better than what God has promised. Faith reminds us that, though fulfillment of God’s promise may not be readily visible to us, God is true to His Word. When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or entice us with instant gratification, faith recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows.”

#### *4. Confess when you fail.*

When you fail, cry out to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness. Don’t shove it under the rug and move on or wallow in shame. Acknowledge your sin before God, and humbly ask for His forgiveness.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

If you confess, He will forgive. Find comfort, strength, and peace in that truth.

#### *5. Get rid of the bad.*

When I was younger, I was challenged to get rid of the bad in my life. The “bad” being anything that was tempting me to fall or give in to temptation. On several occasions, I went through my room and threw away any books, movies, magazines, etc., that were not helping in my fight for purity.

I encourage you to do the same. Think through everything in your life (people you follow on social media, movies, magazines, friends, TV shows), and remove anything that is setting you back in your fight for purity.

#### *6. Fill your mind with good.*

Be intentional about filling your mind with things that promote purity in your life.

Get your hands on truth-filled resources, and fill your mind with good, like scripture, christian podcasts and worship music.

#### *7. Find a solid group of girls.*

Godly friendships are a huge blessing in my life. My close-knit group of girlfriends have challenged me, encouraged me, and continually pointed me toward Christ. Find a godly girl or two who can be that encouragement for you.

The Bible puts it this way:

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Eccles. 4:9–12).*

*8. Get accountability.*

Please, please, please don't try to fight your battles on your own. Find a godly older woman who can offer you wisdom, advice, and accountability in your fight for purity. *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm (Prov. 13:20).*

***What helps you as you fight for purity?***

Taken from Bethany Baird's blog post 8 ways to Fight for Purity. Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com).

Baird, B. (2015, December) 158 Ways to Fight for Purity [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/8-ways-to-fight-for-purity/>

DECEMBER 18TH

# Service



SERVICE PT ONE

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*Now that we are finished looking at how we influence, now let's look at what it means for us to be servants through Christ.*

1. Do you have to do chores? What chores do you have to do?

2. Would you rather serve or be served? Explain

3. Jesus is God. If anyone deserves to be served, it's him. However, when he walked this earth, he decided to serve.

Read John 13:1-17. What does this section teach you about serving?



4. What are some ways we can serve other people around us?

5. Whenever you serve, what is your attitude like? What should our attitude be when it comes to serving? Explain.

6. Do you need to change your attitude regarding servanthood? If the answer is yes, what specifically do you need to change?

DECEMBER 21ST

# Service



SERVICE PT TWO

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*Read the attached article, It's the Most Selfish Time of the Year. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.*

*After you have completed the 2 sections on "service" (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:*

One thing I learned this week about service was...

One question I still have about service is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## It's the Most Selfish Time of the Year?

It's that time of the year that feels extra special, extra sparkly, extra festive. And we love it, right? We decorate glittery trees, bake pans of treats, watch movie after movie, shop and wrap gifts, play carols on repeat, attend Christmas concerts and plays, sip hot chocolate by the fire, and dream of snowflakes—just enough to make our Christmas white.

You just got really excited, didn't you? Me, too. Because we really, really, really love Christmas!

But this year, I've started to wonder why we love the Christmas season so much. Family traditions? Sure. Childhood memories? Perhaps. The extra dose of cheer floating around? Maybe.

Could it be that the reason we're crazy for Christmas is because it provides us the perfect and celebrated excuse to be selfish throughout the month of December?

I know, that kind of notion makes you want pop in your earbuds and turn up Bing Crosby a little louder. We don't like being confronted with anything that could put a damper on our Christmas cheer. In other words, we don't like confronting the ugly truth about our hearts.

Will you hang tight and consider this idea with me anyway?

Let's ponder these subtly selfish phrases often heard at Christmastime:

- Here's what I want for Christmas.
- You can't decorate the tree unless I'm there!
- You made the pecan tassies without me? Why would you do that?
- I hope that big gift is for me.
- Wait—we have to do it this way. Don't change the traditions!
- We have to take another picture! I didn't look good, and I need this for Instagram.
- Stop talking—it's my turn to open a gift now.
- But this wasn't the gift I asked for.

I'll be the first to admit that I've uttered many of those phrases. Maybe my stocking should read "The Selfish One" instead of "Samantha." I'm saddened by the ways I've attempted to turn Christmas into my own fantasy in years past. And I know I'm not alone; we all seem to get sucked into selfishness disguised as celebration.

Traditions and songs and memories aren't the problem; it's the way our selfish hearts grab tightly onto those things to accomplish our individual Christmas agendas.

- It's the reason siblings fight on Christmas. We each want our own way.
- It's the reason we're disappointed when the day doesn't live up to our expectations.
- It's the reason we go into full meltdown mode because we think we've missed the mark of Christmas perfection.
- It's the reason we're left still wanting more after every gift has been unwrapped.

### ***It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Disappointment***

A selfish mindset at Christmas—whether we recognize it or not—sets us up for so much disappointment. Jon Bloom describes the problem with these fantasies so well:

*The false myth . . . is that if we can get it [Christmas] to look like the whimsical hazy collage in our minds, we will experience the “Christmas spirit” and be happy.*

*The problem is, of course, that everyone's collage is different. The result is that Christmas fantasy expectations are disappointed. And all too often selfishness suffocates love, lashes out in some form of aggressive or passive anger and destroys whatever joy and peace there may have been.*

*That's what makes fantasies so dangerous. They are almost always self-centered attempts to seek happiness by forcing reality to conform to our imagination, which we have no power to do. They make unattainable demands and leave us and others disillusioned.*

And worse than disappointment and disillusionment, a selfish mindset sets us up for a lot of sin. We hurt our family members and we grieve the Holy Spirit when we make Christmas about my wants and my hopes and my dreams.

When we're selfish at Christmas, we showcase the exact opposite of the One we're celebrating.

Christmas is the celebration of the ultimate humility of Jesus Christ—a King who humbled Himself in an unfathomable way to become our Savior.

*For Christians, the month of November AND December should be a time of deeper focus on Christ's perfect example of servanthood and selflessness.*

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility count others more significant than yourselves**. Let each of you **look not only to his own interests**, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men**. And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:3–8, emphasis added).*

## It's the Most Selfless Time of the Year

How can we pivot from the most *selfish* time of the year to make it the most *selfless*?

Here are some ways:

Pray that God would grant the grace to help you cultivate the humility of Jesus Christ.

- Don't neglect the Word this Christmas season. It's right where you'll find the grace and wisdom to cultivate a spirit of humility.
- Pray for a Christ-focus throughout all your celebrations.

Value others as more significant than yourself and their interests as more significant than your own.

Turn your focus from "What can I get out of this Christmas?" to "How can I bless and honor and show generosity to others this Christmas?"

- Think of creative ways to show generosity.
- Remind yourself of this truth often: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).
- Be slow to voice your own opinions and desires; be quick to hear and value the opinions of others.
- Instead of constantly waxing eloquent about your favorite Christmas stuff, ask others about theirs. Ask your grandparents to tell stories. Ask your younger siblings what they'd like to do.

Empty yourself as a servant.

Put on your Christmas apron, and get to work! Look for opportunity (after opportunity!) to serve.

- Don't just bake Christmas cookies; clean the kitchen afterward. Scrub those pans and sweep up those sprinkles!
- Don't just wrap gifts; put the wrapping paper and tape away. And offer to wrap gifts for others, too.
- Don't just admire the Christmas lights outside; shovel some snow while you admire.
- Ask your mom . . .
- Can I help you clean the house?
- Are there any errands I could run for you?
- What task on your to-do list is weighing you down? Is there a way I can help?

Has Christmas been the most selfish time of the year for you? In what ways has God prompted you to confess and repent? What steps will you take to make this November AND December the most selfless time of the year?

Taken from Erin Davis's blog post *Best of: What is True Friendship?* Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com).

Davis, E. (2013, January 8). *Best of: What is True Friendship?* [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/best-of-what-is-true-friendship/>

DECEMBER 28TH

# Service



SERVICE PT THREE

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.*

1. What are the two important commandments Jesus gives toward the beginning of the passage?

2. In this story, we see a Jewish man who is hurt. After the two religious people pass by him, a Samaritan stopped to help him. What you need to know is that Samaritans and Jews hated one another. However, the Samaritan looked past the hatred and served the Jew. What does this teach us about servanthood?

3. Read Matthew 5:43-48. What does Jesus tell us to do in this passage? Why is it hard to do this?

4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to serve others, even if it's the people we don't like?

5. Read Romans 5:6-11. What does this verse show us about God's love toward us?

*Challenge: God showed love to us even when we were sinners and his enemies. Think of one person you don't really like and serve them. Write down what you did.*

DECEMBER 28TH

# Service



SERVICE PT FOUR

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*Read the attached article, Who's Number One? As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you. After you have completed the 2 sections on "service" (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:*

One thing I learned this week about service was...

One question I still have about service is...



# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## Who's Number One?

In Luke 22:24–26, we find Jesus teaching His disciples about service.

*Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”*

Let's take a closer look at what's going on in this passage. This conversation occurred soon after Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He had modeled service to them right before they sat down to eat the Last Supper. Their feet were probably still damp, and what do we find them doing? Arguing about who was the greatest! Instead of working to out-serve each other, they were duking it out to be number one.

It sounds like things weren't very different in Jesus' day then they are today. Our culture still values being number one. The world loves to teach that in order to be the greatest, you have to be the best. I'm sure you feel plenty of pressure to earn your significance by being the best athlete or the best student or even the best Christian in your church or youth group. But Jesus didn't teach us to put all of our effort toward being number one. The greatest in His kingdom will be those who take time to serve.

Choosing to serve others was countercultural in Jesus' day, and it remains countercultural today. Living a life of service to others isn't easy. It is difficult to put the needs of others ahead of our own, especially in a world that teaches “it's all about me.” Even so, Jesus calls us to follow His example in this way in order to draw people toward Him.

Are you willing to live counter-culturally by serving others instead of yourself? Will you seek to be “number one” in God's kingdom by serving those around you? Tell me about it.

Taken from Erin Davis's blog post *Who's number one?* Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com).

Davis, E. (2010, January 27). *Who's holding you accountable?* [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/whos-number-one/>

JANUARY 1ST

# Service



SERVICE PT FIVE

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*The Bible has many great verses about serving others. Read the verses below and write at least 3 sentences each about what the author is saying, what you learned, or how you can start doing what the verse is saying.*

Galatians 5:13-14

Matthew 20:20-28

Philippians 2:1-11

Mark 9:33-37

JANUARY 4TH

# Service



SERVICE PT SIX

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*Read the attached article, 50 Ways to Serve Others. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you and complete the following sentences in the space provided:*

One thing I learned this week about service was...

One question I still have about service is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## 50 Ways to Serve Others

I love it when you ask hard questions!

One reader recently wrote, “How do I serve others?” The fact that you are even asking that question makes me want to give you a gold star! So many of us spend our time secretly asking the opposite: “How can I get others to serve me?” But this is not how the Bible teaches us to live. Let’s unpack service for a minute, and then I’ll give you a list of 50 super-practical ways to serve others. (Yep, 50!)

### **“Hey! You matter!”**

The Bible has a lot to say about service. Since the subject gets so much real estate in God’s Word, we can assume it’s something God wanted us to understand and then live out.

But what does it mean to serve others, exactly?

Philippians 2:3–4 helps us figure that out.

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

Mind if I re-phrase that in Erin language?

Service = finding practical ways to show other people they matter. It’s like saying, “Hey! You’re important, and I want to prove it to you.”

That’s something that sounds great in theory, but isn’t always so appealing in real time. True service requires sacrifice. We must sacrifice our abilities for the good of others, not just ourselves. We must sacrifice our talents to invest in others, not just to make ourselves look good. We must sacrifice our time, something that is always in short supply. And here’s the kicker: to truly serve like the Bible calls us to, we must do it with zero promise of a personal pay off. There’s no guarantee that the people we serve will return the favor or even notice our efforts. We are called to serve others anyway.

Flipped Upside Down

1. Go through your closets and donate old books and games to your local hospital.
2. Visit someone who you know is having a hard season.
3. Volunteer somewhere.
4. Buy or make someone lunch.
5. Depending on the season, shovel snow or mow the lawns in your neighborhood.
6. Offer to help your mom clean out closets then organize a yard sale and give the profits to charity.
7. Find someone younger than you that needs help with school or a project.
8. Volunteer in Sunday school.
9. Bring baked goods to someone who is sick or hurting.
10. Don't take the best seat in the house.
11. Write an encouraging note and leave it in a friend's locker.
12. Support a ministry.
13. Promote someone else's ideas. Whenever possible, champion others.
14. Start a Bible study in your school.
15. Ask your youth pastor how you can help set up or tear down for youth group.
16. Send an anonymous donation to someone you know who is struggling financially.
17. Volunteer to babysit for someone who might need a few hours away.
18. Pick up trash at your local park or beach.
19. Sponsor a child through a Christian sponsorship organization.
20. Pick a missionary and commit to pray for them each week.
21. Plant a garden. Share your produce with people in your area.
22. Create a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.
23. Ask a friend how you can be praying for them.
24. Give your old clothes to a local shelter.
25. Send a care package to deployed soldiers.
26. On garbage day, pull everyone in the neighborhood's garbage cans back to their houses.
27. Clean up a mess your sibling made without complaining.
28. Make some encouraging posters and anonymously hang them around your school.  
Here are a few slogans you can totally steal!
  - You matter!
  - You're important!
  - I'm proud of you.
  - You are loved!
29. What is your mom's least favorite household chore? (Laundry, dishes, sweeping the kitchen floor?) Take over that job for her.

30. Do the dishes without being asked.
31. Offer to help a younger sibling with his/her homework.
32. Start your parents' car so it will be nice and warm when they hop in.
33. Contact your school principal ask how you can volunteer at school.
34. Volunteer in your church office.
35. Set aside time each day to pray for others.
36. Visit someone weekly who might be lonely.
37. Give compliments generously.
38. Send flowers.
39. Let someone else pick what show you watch.
40. Write encouraging notes to your friends.
41. Write your favorite Scriptures out on note cards. Insert them into books at the school or public library.
42. Make and deliver chemo care packages.
43. Ding dong ditch. Place flowers or goodies on someone's doorstep.
44. Write a note to your teachers telling them you appreciate their investment in you.
45. Do a chore for a brother or sister without them knowing.
46. Who do you know that's lonely? Call her up and make plans.
47. Leave a quarter in a vending machine or parking meter for someone else to use.
48. Support a food drive.
49. Plan a talent night and give the money raised to a nonprofit.
50. Offer to give an entire day to someone you know. Let them set the agenda.

Let's Roll!

If the goal of service is simply to esteem and meet the needs of others, the possibilities are endless. So let's stop talking about it and start doing it, shall we? Who can you serve today? What will you do to follow Jesus' lead and put others first?

Taken from Erin Davis' blog post 50 Ways to Serve Others. Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com).

Davis, E. (2016, August 11). 50 Ways to Serve Others [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/50-ways-serve-others/>

JANUARY 8TH

# Service



SERVICE PT SEVEN

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet"

John 13:14

*This month was all about serving others. Serve each category below.  
Write who you served and what you did.*

PARENT

FRIEND

TEACHER/COACH