

## Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 101.1)

### LESSON 24 (CORE)

#### “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Hook	As children we know David from his fight with Goliath, but as adults we remember him for the tragic mistakes he made once king.
Goal	Class members should feel empowered to bring up difficult issues relating to these stories in an appropriate way.
Overview	(see below)
Conclusion	

#### 1. Sunday School

- a. Disclaimer and defense of approach, content warnings, recommendations to push the envelope in a Sunday School environment
  - i. Content Note: It should not surprise anyone that a story about adultery, sex without consent, and premeditated murder prompts discussion that may not be suitable for all listeners.
- b. Discussion of the narratives (Comment on how powerfully these are told, facilitating thoughtful and honest discussion. Can let the stories do much of the work. David’s humanity is clearly on display here)
  - i. David and Bathsheba
    1. When did he sin?
    2. Should he have been home anyway?
    3. What was her role? (it was not at all consensual, and the roof was a normal place to have a bath... she was likely purifying herself after her period)
  - ii. Uriah’s faithful foil (he isn’t just a soldier, but ancient special forces)
  - iii. “You are the man”
  - iv. God committing infanticide
  - v. David’s reaction (2 Sam 12:20-24)
- c. Modesty, nudity, normalcy
- d. Sexuality and consent
  - i. Rape culture, patriarchy, imbalance of power (Bring up #YesAllWomen, Jacob’s post etc) (will discuss more in part 2)
  - ii. Empowerment (Okazaki quote, problem there isn’t anything more specific)
  - iii. Scott quote
- e. The way we talk about sexual transgressions at Church, beware victim blaming (where is the “it is better to die than ABUSE message???”); bring up Elisabeth Smart
- f. Repentance, including the power of seeing from another’s perspective
- g. Conclusion I

<http://www.yale.edu/yrurp/issues/Fudman,%20Beauty%20as%20a%20Status%20Characteristic.pdf>  
(physical attractiveness bias)

<http://lettersfromthevineyard.wordpress.com/2014/05/29/yes-all-men/>

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2008/04/to-heal-the-shattering-consequences-of-abuse?lang=eng>

Yes Even Mormon Women (fMh)

<http://www.feministmormonhousewives.org/2014/05/yesevenmormonwomen/>

One Being a Victim (fMh)

<http://www.feministmormonhousewives.org/2014/06/on-being-a-victim/>

<https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-39-the-law-of-chastity?lang=eng>

Fife's podcast

Quotes

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2008/04/to-heal-the-shattering-consequences-of-abuse?lang=eng>

The beginning of healing requires childlike faith in the unalterable fact that Father in Heaven loves you and has supplied a way to heal. His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, laid down His life to provide that healing. But there is no magic solution, no simple balm to provide healing, nor is there an easy path to the complete remedy. The cure requires profound faith in Jesus Christ and in His infinite capacity to heal. It is rooted in an understanding of doctrine and a resolute determination to follow it.

Healing may begin with a thoughtful bishop or stake president or a wise professional counselor. If you had a broken leg, you wouldn't decide to fix it yourself. Serious abuse can also benefit from professional help. There are many ways to begin healing, but remember that a full cure comes through the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Master and Redeemer. Have faith that with effort His perfect, eternal, infinite Atonement can heal your suffering from the consequences of abuse.

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If you are currently being abused or have been in the past, find the courage to seek help. You may have been severely threatened or caused to fear so that you would not reveal the abuse. Have the courage to act now. Seek the support of someone you can trust. Your bishop or stake president can give you valuable counsel and help you with the civil authorities. Explain how you have been abused and identify who has done it. Ask for protection. Your

action may help others avoid becoming innocent victims, with the consequent suffering. Get help now. Do not fear—for fear is a tool Satan will use to keep you suffering. The Lord will help you, but you must reach out for that help.

Do not be discouraged if initially a bishop hesitates when you identify an abuser. Remember that predators are skillful at cultivating a public appearance of piety to mask their despicable acts. Pray to be guided in your efforts to receive help. That support will come. Rest assured that the Perfect Judge, Jesus the Christ, with a perfect knowledge of the details, will hold all abusers accountable for every unrighteous act. In time He will fully apply the required demands of justice unless there is complete repentance. Your preoccupation with a need for justice only slows your healing and allows the perpetrator to continue his abusive control. Therefore you should leave punishment for the diabolic acts of abuse to civil and Church authorities.

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To you who hold the keys of a judge in Israel, painstakingly assure that every individual that is suffering from abuse receives appropriate help. The Church handbook and the help line listed there are valuable resources to guide your ecclesiastical action and coordination with civil authorities.<sup>4</sup> Carefully supervise the participation of any individual who may have had past offenses. Recognize that it is very unlikely that a perpetrator will confess his depraved acts. Seek the guidance of the Spirit when you feel that something may be amiss. Enlist the help of ward and stake leaders to avoid potential dangers.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1992/04/spit-and-mud-and-kigatsuku?lang=eng&query=okazaki>

*Kigatsuku* means “an inner spirit to act without being told what to do.” First, we can do great good when we act as an organized group. One hundred and fifty years of Relief Society speaks for itself. One stake in Denver, Colorado, is making quilts—dozens of thick, warm, comforting quilts—which they will donate to the homeless and those in need. Second, we can do great good when we act in small, informal groups. The Relief Society general board volunteered to clean a littered highway, pulled on their gloves, and discovered that it doesn’t take a long time to make a big difference. And third, we can do great good on our own—just as individuals who care enough to serve. Think of Sister Julia Mavimbela in South Africa, teaching children who had never had a real home to tend the earth by planting gardens. It is the desire in individual hearts that powers not only small, individual acts of service, but also the great acts that become mass movements and even revolutions. You have that power, too.

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You are powerful! Where does that power come from to “do many things of [our] own free will”? It comes from the Savior himself. Feel that desire to serve in your own heart. Sense within yourself that strength to choose!

<https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-39-the-law-of-chastity?lang=eng>

Sound advice:

Parents can begin teaching children to have proper attitudes toward their bodies when children are very young. Talking to children frankly but reverently and using the correct names for the parts and functions of their bodies will help them grow up without unnecessary embarrassment about their bodies.

Children are naturally curious. They want to know how their bodies work. They want to know where babies come from. If parents answer all such questions immediately and clearly so children can understand, children will continue to take their questions to their parents. However, if parents answer questions so that children feel embarrassed, rejected, or dissatisfied, they will probably go to someone else with their questions and perhaps get incorrect ideas and improper attitudes.

It is not wise or necessary, however, to tell children everything at once. Parents need only give them the information they have asked for and can understand. While answering these questions, parents can teach children the importance of respecting their bodies and the bodies of others. Parents should teach children to dress modestly. They should correct the false ideas and vulgar language that children learn from others.

By the time children reach maturity, parents should have frankly discussed procreation with them. Children should understand that these powers are good and were given to us by the Lord. He expects us to use them within the bounds He has given us.