

Small Group Questions
Philippians 4:8-9
May 17, 2009

1. *Memorize the Filter: Divide the group in half. Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. On “go” have them start writing down all eight words that we discussed in the message - true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy. Everyone must contribute one word, before someone can contribute a second word. See which group can finish first. Then work with them on memorizing the eight words.*

2. *Make a list of things typical Middle School Students do. Start by having each student go around and share something they like to do. Then go back around and have the students share additional things that other MS students are involved with. Some examples might include:*

Sports

Dancing

Eating

Media Stuff – Movies, TV and Video Games

Sex/Dating

Music

Have the kids put each thing through the “filter” of Philippians 4:8-9 – Is it true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy. Each of these things has potential for good and for bad. Have the kids explain what is “excellent and praiseworthy” and what isn’t about each thing. For example: Sex was created by God and is a good thing. The key is timing. It is excellent and praiseworthy in the context of marriage. Be careful with eating. There is probably at least one girl in every group who might struggle with eating.

3. *Why is there peace in imitating Christ and doing things that are excellent and praiseworthy.*
Maybe a personal story here of a time when you felt the weight of sin after doing something wrong. Encourage them to also think of stories in their life or in others lives where they saw the pain of not living out a filtered life. But make sure the kids aren’t looking just to avoid guilt. Point them toward experiencing the joy that comes from being like Christ and having a relationship with him.