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# CORRUPTION

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The Ologies Lesson 13



# The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

## LESSON 13 - CORRUPTION

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### MAIN POINT:

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### MESSAGE NOTES:<sup>1</sup>

Listen to or view message #13 in *The Ologies*, “Corruption,” at [pscconline.com](http://pscconline.com). You can also find it by searching for Pleasant Street Church of Christ on your favorite podcasting service or on the Faithlife app on Apple TV or Roku.

#### *Thought Questions:*

1. What is the process of corruption?
2. How does corruption in the church begin?
3. How can we quarantine among the corrupt?
4. Why shouldn't we try to split or rebel in a corrupt church?

#### *Next Steps:*

1. Has your faith become corrupted?
2. How will you foster peace and community despite corruption?

#### *Obedience Challenge: Pure Devotion*

Prayerfully make a list of activities which are focused purely on the kingdom of God. Commit to incorporate one or more of these activities into your daily and weekly routine. For instance, you might divert time you normally spend on a hobby to volunteering at a Head Start. Be sure to keep it pure by telling no one. Or you could commit to give as much to the kingdom as you do to your retirement or vacation fund. This might require you to give less to the earthly stuff, but isn't that the point?

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<sup>1</sup> You will share your notes during the Collaboration time of your Life Team meeting.

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## DAILY DEVOTION GUIDE:

Read the following Scriptures about humankind as created beings, throughout this week. Use the [SOAP journaling method](#) to help you go deeper into the text. (See Handout)

- Monday – Deuteronomy 32
- Tuesday – Psalm 14
- Wednesday – Psalm 53
- Thursday – Psalm 94
- Friday – Isaiah 1
- Saturday – Luke 11:29-12:3

During your Life Team meeting, you'll be given the opportunity to share some of your Application entries. Consider bookmarking any that you'll want to share by way of confession or to encourage others.

Or copy it here for easy reference:

# The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

## INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING GUIDE:

### Primer Exercise:

#### *For Children*

Make a loaf of bread with your kids. Go to [Artisian Bread \(a.k.a. crusty cruchy yumminess\)](http://cookingwithkaryn.blogspot.com) ([cookingwithkaryn.blogspot.com](http://cookingwithkaryn.blogspot.com)) or use your own family recipe. Pay special attention to how the volume of the dough increases after you add (and proof) the yeast.

#### Ask:

- Why do you think the dough got bigger after we added the yeast?
- Can you see the yeast in the dough? What do you think happened to it?
- Do you think yeast is good or bad?

#### Read:

*Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy.” (Luke 12:1 NLT)*

Say: “Hypocrisy is when people try to keep the bad things they do or think a secret so other people will think they’re good.”

#### Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus called the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, yeast?
- Why did he want his disciples to watch out for this “yeast”?

Say: “While yeast in our bread is good, people in the Bible often talked about it representing bad attitudes and habits because those things could grow in hearts and spread between people without being seen. We should be careful not to hide bad things in our hearts, so they don’t grow inside of us.”

#### *Everyone Else*

Watch this video from “The Lord of the Rings,” <https://pscconline.com/lotr-gondor-corruption-mp4/>

- Where do you see evidence of corruption in Gondor?
- What negative effects resulted?
- How is Gondor like other contexts you’ve experienced?
- What can we learn from this bit of fiction?

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The three sessions below are designed for home devotional use. Each session should be done in a separate sitting.

## Session One: “The Perfect Rock”

- Read Deuteronomy 31:24-32:6
  - Why did Moses tell the people to keep the book of the law in the tabernacle?
  - From what you’ve read so far, what title would you give to this song of Moses?
  - How is God “the Rock”?
  - What accusation does Moses bring against people in this passage?
- Application and Prayer
  - How can we be more Rock-like?

## Session Two: “Fat Brats”

- Read Deuteronomy 32:15-22
  - How did Israel become corrupt?
  - What about their corruption made God angry?
  - How does God say he’s going to respond to their corruption?
- Application and Prayer
  - Do you think God hides his face from corrupt believers today?
  - What changes should we make if we feel like God has been hiding his face from us?

## Session Three: “Brood of Evildoers”

- Read Isaiah 1:2-4
  - What similarities do you see between this passage and Deuteronomy 32?
  - How can you tell that the whole nation had become corrupt?
- Application and Prayer
  - What examples of corruption can you see in the world? The church?
  - Pray that God would help you to resist that corruption and help others to escape it.

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## LIFE TEAM GATHERING GUIDE:

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### Create In Me

Anonymous

*Psalms 51:10*

Arr. by Kenny Lewis

### Create In Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, Oh — God,  
 and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me. Cre -  
 ate in me a clean heart, Oh — God, and re - new a right  
 spi - rit with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your  
 pres - ence, oh Lord, and take not Your Ho - ly Spi - rit from  
 Pre - sence Lord and

me, re - store un - to me the joy of my sal - va - tion  
 me, re - store  
 and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me. Cre -  
 new  
 and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me. Cre -  
 1 2  
 me.

### Psalms 85:4-7

Restore us again, O God our Savior,  
 And put away your displeasure toward us.  
 Will you be angry with us forever?  
 Will you prolong your anger  
 Through all generations?  
 Will you not revive us again,  
 That your people may rejoice in you?  
 Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,  
 And grant us your salvation.

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# The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

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## Sanctuary

Romans 6:1-6

Words & Music by  
J. W. Thompson & Randy Scruggs

*Descant 2nd time only*

Arr. By Darrell Bledsoe

1. O Lord pre- pare me,  
2. You were the One, Lord,

sanc - tu - a - ry,  
the Sav - ior,

1. O Lord pre- pare me,  
2. You were the One, Lord,

to be a sanc - tu - a - ry,  
who sent the Sav - ior;

pure and  
Heart and

pure and ho - ly tried and true.  
Heart and soul, Lord, for our land.

I'll be a liv - ing  
And it is You, Lord,

ho - ly  
soul, Lord,

tried and true.  
for our land.

With thanks - giv - ing I'll be a  
It is You, Lord, who knows our

thanks - giv - ing  
our weak - ness;

sanc - tu - a - ry for You,  
You re - fine us with Your hand.

liv - ing sanc - tu - a - ry  
weak - ness; You re - fine us

for You, Lord teach Your  
with Your hand. O Lord pre -

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## Sanctuary

Lord teach Your child - ren  
O Lord pre - pare me,

stop the fight - ing;  
sanc - tu - a - ry,

child - ren  
pare me,

to stop the fight - ing;  
to be a sanc - tu - a - ry,

Start u -  
pure and

Start u - nit - ing all as one  
pure and ho - ly tried and true.

Let's get to - geth - er,  
I'll be a liv - ing

nit - ing  
ho - ly

all as one  
tried and true.

Let's get to - geth - er,  
With thanks - giv - ing

lov - ing  
I'll be

for - ev - er,  
thanks - giv - ing

sanc - tu - a - ry for You,  
sanc - tu - a - ry for You.

for - ev - er,  
a liv - ing

sanc - tu - a - ry  
sanc - tu - a - ry

for You,  
for You.

D.C.

# The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

## Scripture Discussion

- Read Isaiah 59:1-8 and find the following elements of corruption:
  - Misuse of God’s blessings
  - Moral decay
  - Violence
  - Establishment of new standards
  - Spread through the whole society

## Pray

- Get a volunteer to close the prayer time at the end.
- Recite the following section from Psalm 80:14-19 together to segue into a time of prayer:

*Return to us, God Almighty!*

*Look down from heaven and see!*

*Watch over this vine,*

*the root your right hand has planted,*

*the son you have raised up for yourself.*

*Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;*

*at your rebuke your people perish.*

*Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,*

*the son of man you have raised up for yourself.*

*Then we will not turn away from you;*

*revive us, and we will call on your name.*

*Restore us, LORD God Almighty;*

*make your face shine on us,*

*that we may be saved.*

- Pray for needs and have volunteer close.

## Collaborate

Each participant should have listened to Message #13 in *The Ologies*, “Corruption” in person or online and taken notes.

- Have everyone share their answers to the **Thought Questions** in their *Message Notes*.
- If anyone has already done the **Obedience Challenge**, have them report on how it went and what they learned.
- Encourage (but don’t require) participants to share their **Next Steps** or any **Application** entries from their SOAP journals.
- Close by praying for each other’s **Next Steps** and **Application** entries.