



HEALTHY IMAGE OF SEX CURRICULUM SUMMARY

The Healthy Image of Sex curriculum focuses on defining terms related to sexual abstinence for students. Each lesson centers around one or two terms that are defined and related to students' lives through activities. During the initial stages of curriculum development, writers understood the need to redefine words for the students contrary to definitions that society provides. For example, we define "virtue" as: voluntary obedience to truth; "marriage" as: the choice of a man or woman to commit to one another as husband and wife for life; and "safe sex" as: having sex only with your uninfected marriage partner who is having sex only with you.

Healthy Image of Sex teaches students to live a chaste lifestyle rather than merely abstaining from sex. The advantage to this, which is explained to students, is that chastity is a virtue that is carried over into the marriage relationship. Chastity is defined as: freedom from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage.

Marriage is emphasized in every lesson and the advantages of reserving sex for the marriage relationship are reiterated. Curriculum authors took into account the fact that many students do not come from a home where their mother and father are married. Healthy Image of Sex teaches students that although a lifelong marriage has not been modeled in their homes, they can strive for and achieve this ultimate lifestyle for themselves. Students are continually told how statistics prove that maintaining their virginity until marriage will greatly enhance the likelihood of a lifelong committed marriage. Classroom experience has shown that although a student's initial image of marriage is typically diminished, as teachers continue to define marriage, the students respond to their God-given desire to aspire to this committed relationship.