


HOLDING ON TO THE TRUTH



“I’m not sure I can give up my old lifestyle.”

God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey Him (Philippians 2:13 CEV)

“I’m not sure if I’m strong enough to live the Christian life.”

Christ gives me the strength to face anything. (Philippians 4:13 CEV)

“I’m not sure I’ve got the determination and self control to see it through.”

God is the One who began this good work in you , and I am certain that He won’t stop before it is complete on the day in which Jesus Christ returns. (Philippians 1:6 CEV)

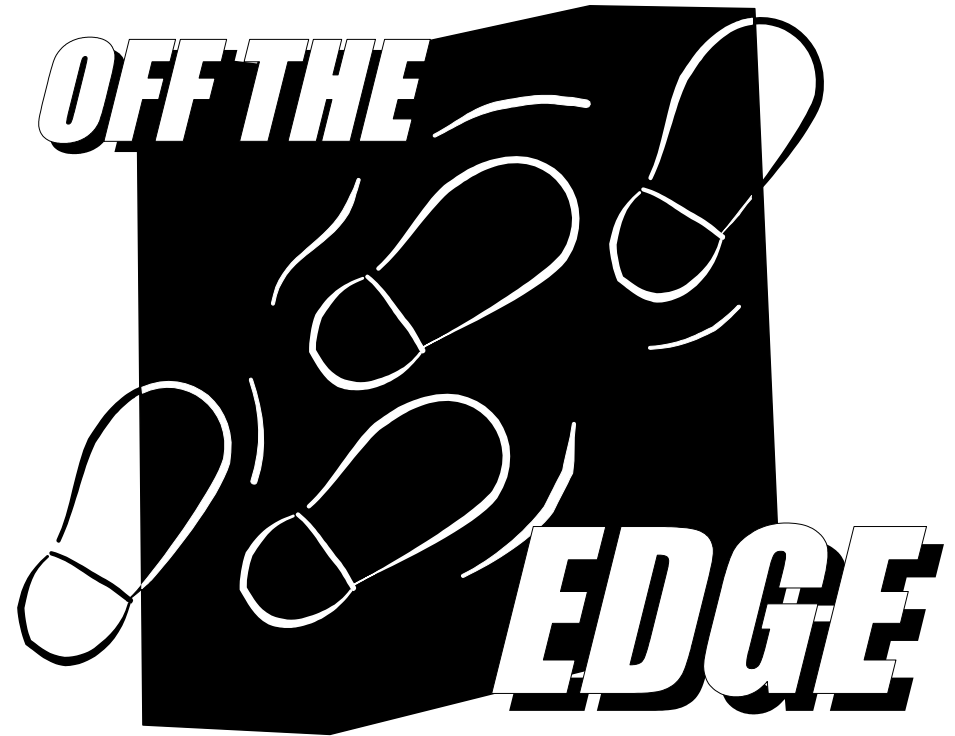
“I don’t think I can overcome temptation.”

You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and He will show you how to escape from your temptations. (1 Corinthians 10:13 CEV)

“What if my friends ridicule me?”

If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it people would love you. But you don’t belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind. (John 15:18-19a CEV)

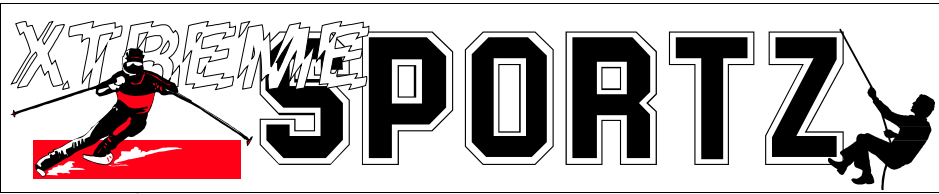
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SESSION ONE

Stepping Away From the
WORLD



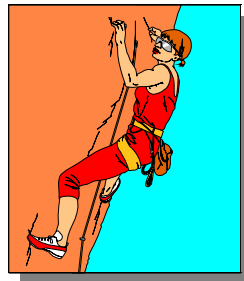


What are some of the “xtreme/off the edge/on the edge” (or over the edge!) sports popular today?

Why do you think these are so popular with people? Why do they do it?

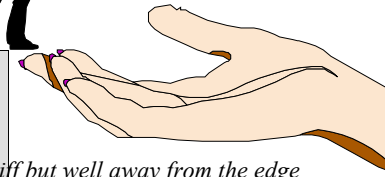
How many of these have you tried? Why, or why not?

In what way do you think choosing to follow God is like “stepping off the edge”?



Living Life on the EDGE

How close to “stepping off the edge” and trusting God, are you? Choose one of the following which best describes your position. Talk about where you’re at and the reasons why:



- On the cliff but well away from the edge
- Standing near the cliff edge and wondering what I should do
- Standing with one foot on the cliff and one foot in God’s hand
- Standing with both feet in God’s hand but ready to jump back at any moment
- Standing in God’s hand with no thought of going back



Suppose you’ve already stepped “off the edge”. Share with others how you got to the point of being able to trust God. Was it a long process or did it happen suddenly? What things did you have to “step away from”?

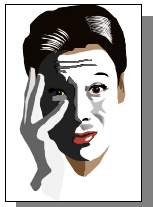
Suppose you’ve yet to step “off the edge”. What is holding you back? Is it the fear of what others will say? Do you find it hard to believe that God won’t let you fall? Are you not sure how to become a Christian? See if others in the group can answer your questions and decide what your next move is.

CONSIDERING *Christ*

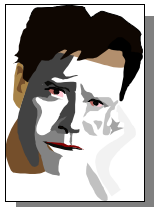
Talk about the following people who are thinking about stepping “off the edge” and becoming a Christian. What would you say to each of them?



Cameron has thought about becoming a Christian for a while. He has had some good talks about it with a friend, but when it comes to the crunch he always holds back. The problem he says is that he's not willing to give anything about in his life. He loves to party and to hang out with his mates. He's just not ready to change.



Carissa realises that the life she's been living doesn't please God. She decides that she wants to be a Christian, but before she does she wants to sort her life out and start living right. To come to God without first sorting her life out would be wrong.



Clint has tried Christianity once before but it didn't seem to work for him. Before too long he had slipped back into his old ways. He doesn't like to “fail” at anything he tries and can't stand the thought of trying and failing at Christianity again. Besides, would God give him a second chance...?

LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND



Whether we see it as a sacrifice or not, there are changes that will take place in our life if we choose to follow Christ. There are things of “the world” that we must leave behind. What do you think some of these things are. Use the following headings to help you:

Possessions:

Pastimes:

People:

Discuss why it is necessary to step away from these things.



Read Matthew 6:19-21,24-30a

What do you think it means to “store up treasures in heaven”?

Why do we not need to concentrate on storing up worldly possessions?

Describe what you think our attitude to possessions should be?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-5

What activities are we warned to stay away from?

How is this passage encouraging for a new Christian who are being criticised by their old friends?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Why should we avoid people who are opposed to God and His ways?

MATTHEW 6:19-21,24-30a

Don't store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is.

You cannot be the slave of two masters! You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

I tell you not to worry about your life. Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear: Isn't life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds?

Can worry make you live longer? Why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes. But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of them. God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. He will surely do even more for you!

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1 PETER 4:1-5

Christ suffered here on earth. Now you must be ready to suffer as He did, because suffering shows that you have stopped sinning. It means you have turned from your own desires and want to obey God for the rest of your life.

You have already lived long enough like people who don't know God. You were immoral and followed your evil desires. You went around drinking and partying and carrying on. In fact, you even worshipped disgusting idols. Now your former friends wonder why you have stopped running around with them, and they curse you for it.

But they will have to answer to God, who judges the living and the dead.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-16

Stay away from people who are not followers of the Lord! Can someone who is good get along with someone who is evil? Are light and darkness the same? Is Christ a friend of Satan? Can people who follow the Lord have anything in common with those who don't. Do idols belong in the temple of God? We are the temple of the living God, as God Himself says,

*“I will live with this people
and walk among them.
I will be their God,
and they will be
My people.”*