Boundary Lines

Psalm 16:7 “*His boundaries lie in pleasant places and surely I have a delightful inheritanc*e.”

Boundaries are given for our benefit. When my kids were toddlers and we played out on the driveway, I took a piece of chalk and drew a line near the end of the driveway so they would know where the boundary was. Why did I set a boundary at the end of my driveway? Because the street is dangerous. It was my way of protecting my children. After once or twice going near the boundary (or crossing the boundary line), the consequence was lesson enough and my children knew they could play all over the driveway and in the front yard, but not to go near the chalk line. They had plenty of space to play and run free! There was **freedom inside the boundary line**.

God has set boundaries for us that are for our good. He knows the pain that comes when we live outside His path for our lives. Many people have experienced the sting of consequences that leave a trail of heartbreak, brokenness, abuse, etc.

Do you know anyone who has lived outside of God’s perfect boundaries? What counsel do you think they would offer you?

Sin offers pleasure with no consequences. The reality of sin is that it offers what it cannot deliver~ the end result of sin is destruction. If you watch television shows or music, and listen to music, the idea presented is that you can do anything you want and there are no consequences to what you do or say or how you live. That would only be true if you lived alone on an island. ☺ Any one person is in relationship with others-parents, siblings, friends, teachers, youth group, sports team, coaches, etc.

What you do not only affects you, but it affects those around you too.

Sin takes you where you don’t want to go and keeps you longer than you want to stay. Ask anyone who has been addicted to alcohol or drugs or gambling, etc. It started out as fun and pleasurable, but the addiction took over and no longer was the person in control, the addiction was. The world, nor the enemy will share the end result of crossing God’s beautifully set boundaries.

God’s boundaries are like fences. We have a huge yard in which to roam. The boundary is His protection for us. It is set for us so you can arrive at marriage and adulthood with little baggage.

Those who follow His path and stay in the boundary lines have No regrets~ only a delightful inheritance.

I heard a story recently about a little four year old girl who got a gold fish for a pet. Her daddy put it in the goldfish bowl and that little fish was swimming all around. This little girl told her daddy that she wanted to swim with her goldfish, so he brought the bowl down to set on the side of the pool. The daddy swam in the pool and the little girl swam in the pool, and the goldfish swam in his bowl. While the daddy was swimming around, the little girl turned the bowl on its side, so the goldfish landed in the pool with her. She swam around and the goldfish swam around. But….what eventually happened to the goldfish? Yep, he died. Why? Because he was taken out of his boundary. While he swam in the bowl, he had lots of swimming room for a goldfish. When he was put in the pool, it looked like a whole lot more fun, but inside, he was dying because goldfish aren’t made for swimming pools.

As you move through the high school years, there will be many temptations to get out of your “bowl” and jump into the “pool”. Remember that the pool may be inviting and pleasurable, but there is a price to pay. The Kingdom of heaven offers more REAL pleasure than any other kingdom can offer—with no regrets.

Respond:

1) Pray. Ask the Lord to increase your desire for the Kingdom of heaven~ that the pleasures of His Kingdom would have more pull than the world’s pleasures.

2) Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a picture that represents the boundaries of God’s Kingdom (create a picture in your journal).