

What's The Bible Really Say About Alcohol?

Goals: The goal of this study is to get students talking about alcohol, looking at what God says about it, and to help them examine their own assumptions about drinking, and to be thoughtful about the impact it has on others.

Openers:

- College is full of people who are “coming of age” to drink, and students get really excited about turning 21, right? Why do you think that is? For those of you already 21, was that the case for you? Why?
- What’s your opinion of our campus’ “alcohol culture” (drinking, talking about it, posting margarita pics on social media, getting invited to “go out”, etc.)? Is it even a thing? As a university, are we in a good place with alcohol, a bad place, not a big deal, dangerous, fun, healthy...?
- Same question - for those of us who are regulars at CCF - how about our CCF “alcohol culture”? Are we in a good place, bad, not a big deal, dangerous, fun, healthy...?

Scripture:

Let’s look at Scripture’s broad perspective on alcohol. *(Divide the group up, have each person/group look at a different passage, or a couple of passages - but make sure they’re all covered. Then have each person/group share their answer to this question:)* What does this passage tell you about God’s views on alcohol?

Psalms 104:14-15, Isaiah 25:6-8, Proverbs 23:29-35, John 2:1-11, 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 1 Timothy 5:23, and Ephesians 5:15-20

Reflections:

- In your life, when have you seen alcohol enjoyed in a healthy, totally no big deal way?
- How have you seen alcohol enjoyed destructively?

Going Deeper:

Examine **Romans 14:1-23** together as a group *(make sure everyone has access to a copy - whether on a whiteboard, or print-outs for everyone, or everyone’s got a Bible, etc.)*.

- Which verses, or parts of verses, do you think relate to our discussion about drinking? *(underline them, highlight them, etc.)*
- If you could summarize Paul’s views on alcohol based on this passage (even though that’s not exactly what he’s talking about), what do you think Paul thinks about drinking?
- What is motivating Paul’s instructions in this passage, what’s his heart behind them?

Applications:

- What questions could you ask yourself to determine whether or not drinking in a certain scenario is a good idea?
- What are some scenarios where it's always inappropriate to drink? (*examples: underage, around an alcoholic, if you've promised not to, etc.*)
- How has this study affirmed what you already thought about drinking? How has it challenged what you thought?
- What do you think Jesus wants you to do in response to this study?