

Supplement
to the Video Program

Alone in the Dark

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Alone in the Dark

In the program *Alone in the Dark*, Tasha is faced with situations confronting many teenagers today. She must learn to make right choices, choose right friends, and learn to live her life in a way that will make a good, secure future for herself and her friends. This guide is to help you examine some of the issues faced by Tasha from a Biblical perspective — so that hopefully your future won't leave you alone in the dark, as was Tasha.

CHOICES

1. A phrase Tasha uses many times in the film is, "I had no choice." Tasha often uses this as a defense for her many wrong choices. What were some choices Tasha made?

- She chose to spend her money and use her time to keep up with the rich, "in" group, instead of investing her money and time in preparing for the future.
- She chose not to do her homework, but instead to work, party, and see Sean.
- She chose to go to Jan's graduation party instead of staying home to catch up on her homework.
- She chose to argue with her mother and to defy her mother's orders to stay home and watch her sister, Sam.
- She chose to take Sam along to the party.
- She chose to drink too much at the party (Jan: "Have another.")
- She chose to drive home from the party.

What were the consequences of Tasha's choices?

2. All of us face seemingly innocent choices everyday, but those innocent choices can set the pattern for our lives and have more serious consequences in the long run. The Scriptures offer guidelines for making right choices. Let's examine some Scriptures and see how they can help us make good choices on everyday matters:

- a. As the children of Israel entered the land of Canaan, they were faced with a choice of how to live their lives. Read Deut. 30:19-20; Joshua 24:15-20 and consider
 - what choice did the Israelites face?
 - what were some reasons to choose the Lord?
 - what were some advantages in choosing the Lord?
 - what were some difficulties in choosing the Lord?

How would we apply these to our contemporary situations (noting the basic choice we face, some reasons for choosing the Lord, as well as some advantages and difficulties in choosing the Lord!)?

- b. How would choosing the Lord in your life affect decisions about everyday matters? Read the following verses and discuss some practical applications. how could these verses have encouraged Tasha to make different choices?

Colossians 3:17

I Peter 4:11

Romans 13:14

How would remembering these truths of Scripture help you in making decisions?

PEER PRESSURE/CONFORMITY

1. making decisions as a teenager is often difficult because of constant social pressure to flow with the crowd.

- a. In Ephesians 4:14, the apostle Paul called young believers those who are “tossed here and there by waves, and carried away by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming....” In the entire context of Ephesians 4:11-16, the remedy to being carried away by the crowd of craftiness and deceit is through the loving support of a body of believers who love the truth. How can the church and fellow believers help teenagers face the pressures they encounter from their peers and society?
- b. What advice and encouragement do the following Scriptures give to stand strong against the pressures of peers and society?

I Corinthians 16:13

Romans 6:16-23

Galatians 5:1, 16-25

I Peter 5:8

Revelation 21:7

2. “Everyone else is doing it” is just another way of saying “I had no choice.” Both statements are deceptive and false. We do have a choice...and as Christians we have a responsibility to stand up against the pressure of the world to make us over into its image. What choices and options do the following verses say are open to you?

Exodus 23:2

Romans 12:2

James 4:4

I Peter 4:3

Galatians 1:10

3. The Scriptures recognize that it will not be easy to stand up against the crowd and make sometimes unpopular decisions. Why are Christians sometimes ridiculed and made fun of for trying to live a life pleasing to God?

Psalm 69:12

I Peter 4:4

John 17:14

Why does this make choosing Christian friends and being part of a fellowship of committed Christians important?

FRIENDS

1. The people we associate with has a lot to do with the kind of life we will lead. Choosing friends wisely is important, especially in the teenage years. As Benjamin Franklin said, "If you lie down with dogs, you'll rise up with fleas." The ancient Greeks had a proverb with a similar moral which the apostle Paul quoted in I corinthians 15:33. What's the big message of those two proverbs?

2. The Book of Proverbs was actually written by King Solomon to his son, giving him words of advice and wisdom to direct his life. Many of the Proverbs have to do with choosing the right friends. Read the following and explain why the proverbs say choosing your friends is so important:

a. Proverbs 1:8-19

What enticements does evil place in the way?

What was solomon's son to do when the wicked came with their schemes and plans for getting rich and succeeding through evil plans?

What finally happens to the wicked and all their schemes?

b. Proverbs 2:6-22

What are the choices available here?

What are the consequences of following after the adulteress, the woman outside of a person's proper relationship?

What will guard you from this woman's wicked advances?

c. Proverbs 4:10-19

What's the difference between the path of wickedness and righteousness?

Verses 14-15 tells how to keep from becoming corrupted by the wicked...what five commands are given here? How could Tasha have applied those commands when faced with the choices here "friends" provided for her?

d. Proverbs 10-14 contains many short proverbs which give advice and direction to our lives. Read through these chapters and pick out some key verses which might have helped Tasha find better direction for her life and warn her against making some of the choices she made. Which verses do you find particularly useful in making decisions in your own life?

3. Read Psalm 119:63 and 115 to find out what David's criterion for choosing friends was, and why that was his standard.
4. What kind of people does I Corinthians 4:11 say should not be our friends?

ALCOHOL/DRUGS

1. The Bible has a lot to say about drunkenness. What are some effects of drinking mentioned in the following passages?

Ephesians 5:18
 Proverbs 23:20-21
 Proverbs 23:29-35
 Proverbs 20:1

Could you see any of these effects among Tasha and her friends at the party? Which ones?

2. Though some of the effects of excessive drinking might be obvious to an observer, some of the effects are more subtle. What are some long-lasting effects of drunkenness found in I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:21? What other sins is drunkenness listed with in these passages?
3. The Bible includes many passages about the feasting and celebrations of the people of God before the Lord. It also includes passages that deal with the wrong way to party. Read Isaiah 5:11-12 and consider what made the party described a wrong one.

SUMMING UP

The title of this film is *Alone in the Dark*.

How is that phrase used in the film? [Mom always leaves the light on for Sam. When Sam is dead and about to be buried, Mom says she'll be all alone in the dark.]

How can it also be said that Tasha was all alone in the dark, even when she was at the party and surrounded by her friends?

What is necessary to bring light, true friendship and companionship into our lives so that we do not go through life and spend eternity alone in the dark? [A personal relationship with Jesus Christ and living in the light of His Word....John 8:12; 12:35-36; Psalm 119:105]