

CANNABIS AND THE CHRISTIAN

— by TODD MILES —

Discussion Guide

CHAPTER 1

1. Early in the chapter, certain statistics showed that marijuana use is on the rise. Reasoning for this could be found in the availability of marijuana use now that it is beginning to become legal. Why is it important for us to have a Christian response to marijuana use?
2. There is a difference between alcohol use and marijuana use. We cannot simply trade “wine” for “marijuana” and “drunkenness” for “getting high.” Why is it important to know what marijuana is and what it does to the body before we discuss it?
3. One of the most difficult concepts to answer about marijuana is that it has many unknown factors. What is smoked today does not necessarily match up with what was smoked by previous generations. With this reality, why is it so necessary for us to educate ourselves on what marijuana is before we take a stance on it?

CHAPTER 2

1. “Our bodies are a gift from the Lord and stewardship demands that we care for them.” Why is it important that we start here before discussing the effects of marijuana on the body?
2. A large myth surrounding marijuana use is that it is “non-addictive.” When we look at what addiction is, we come away understanding that marijuana is simply “less addictive.” How has a clearer understanding of what addiction is altered your perspective after reading this chapter?
3. The effects of marijuana use on the lungs and the brain are very evident. What are some of the factors that stood out to you during your reading about the effects of marijuana on the mind and the body?

CHAPTER 3

1. For many Christians in the past, the disdain for marijuana was found in its illegality. Because it was illegal, it was off limits. What are the dangers of equating the civil law of the land with God’s moral will?
2. Unless otherwise instructed, to disobey the government is to disobey God. Let’s think about that for a moment. Why is it important for us to obey the government unless we are instructed to do otherwise?
3. Because our government is made up of humans, there are going to be moments when the government loses its moral authority. When have there been situations where the government lost its authority and the church was called to disobey that governing authority? What are good principles to help us navigate decisions on when to obey the government and when it would be wrong to obey the government?



CHAPTER 4

1. Some people note that God created cannabis, and all of God's creation is good. While there is truth in that statement, does it justify all uses of cannabis? Why or why not?
2. Paul was clear on how to address addiction. Will what we partake in master or enslave us? If anything other than Christ is the head of our lives, it becomes sinful. How can this understanding of addiction help us to make decisions about marijuana use?
3. If alcohol is treated as a gift in the Scriptures, moderate use being celebrated and excessive use being condemned, can the same be said for marijuana? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 5

1. Being sober-minded is biblical. If the end result of marijuana use is getting high, how does marijuana use put us in conflict with sober-mindedness? Do you have to be high on marijuana in order to lose sober-mindedness? Can a user lose sober-mindedness without being high?
2. Because of its increase in recreational use among the general population, we probably know someone who has used marijuana with some level of frequency. What is their attitude like? Do they seem like someone who engages in activity or in passivity?
3. The argument for marijuana use as an assistance to better meditation has come up more and more. God, however, calls us to have a better sight and vision of Him. Marijuana distorts. What should the Christian response be to the meditation argument?

CHAPTER 6

1. THC and CBD are both cannabinoid components of marijuana. What is the difference between the use of THC and CBD? Why might it be permissible to use CBD for medical reasons as opposed to THC? Do the differences between THC and CBD influence whether or not to use marijuana medically?
2. What are some of the risks associated with the medical use of marijuana? How can a lack of information lead a person to experience long-term effects even if they don't show up initially?
3. Though most of the evidence in favor of medical marijuana use is anecdotal, it does not mean that it has no value. How is anecdotal evidence beneficial to the conversation on medical marijuana? What are the potential dangers of anecdotal evidence?

CHAPTER 7

1. If Christians should evaluate everything that potentially comes into our bodies, how does the question of marijuana use lead to a deeper conversation? How can this concept of evaluating what goes into our bodies be broadened beyond marijuana use?
2. Even though there is nothing wrong with the desire to avoid suffering, the Bible lists a number of benefits to suffering. What are the benefits of Christian suffering?
3. Sometimes the price for relief from pain is too high, especially if the cost is one's discipleship. What are some things a Christian should consider before partaking in marijuana use?

