

Sex Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. How did you first learn about sex?
2. When you were growing up, was there a famous person you were attracted to? Explain.

Read the following passage: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

Corinth was a major urban center in the Roman Empire and it had a reputation for prostitution and pleasure-seeking. Not surprisingly, the church in Corinth was not completely immune to this influence. The passage above makes it clear that there were at least some people within the church at Corinth who were visiting prostitutes. The slogans that these Corinthians were using to justify their actions are strikingly similar to the paradigms undergirding our modern sexual ethic.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Some Corinthians claimed that the truly spiritual individual was not subject to any moral constraints. One pagan philosopher, Dio Chrysostom, wrote “[t]he wise ... are permitted to do anything they wish.” Today, some people claim that placing any limitations on a person’s sexual freedom is repressive and potentially harmful. Do you agree? If not, how would you respond to this perspective?
2. Read John 8:31-36 and Galatians 5:13. Describe the kind of freedom that Jesus and the apostle Paul desire for God’s people. Contrast this with other ideas of freedom that may be common in our cultural context.
3. Some Corinthians viewed sex as a mere bodily appetite, and suggested that having sex with a prostitute was no different than eating a meal. What are some ways that our culture has tried to reduce sex to a purely physical phenomenon with no emotional, social, or spiritual significance? What are some of the ramifications of such a perspective?
4. Why do you think that God instructs us to reserve sexual activity for the marriage relationship? Why is sex important to a marriage relationship? Do you think that a married couple should only have sex for the purpose of procreation? Explain.
5. Read Matthew 5:27-28. Do you think Jesus’ first-century teaching would apply to pornography? Do you view pornography? How would you respond to the following statement: “Pornography doesn’t harm anybody, so why does it matter if I watch it?”

6. Do you feel pressure to present yourself as an object of sexual attraction? Explain. Do you feel pressure to have sex?
7. What are some ways that our sex lives might impact our spiritual lives?
8. Whether married or single, what can we do when we feel lonely or unwanted?
9. What should we do if we feel that we have made mistakes sexually or relationally?
10. What is one way you can better honor God with your body?

Pray