

Why God?

Why can't I just do what makes me happy?

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

"27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth... 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." – Genesis 1:27-28 & 2:24

"16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." – Galatians 5:16-23

"Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you." – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What is a social norm that you used to be against but now doesn't seem that bad anymore?
- What does identity mean to you? When you're meeting someone new, what are the first things you share about yourself?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- In Genesis 1-2, the creation of the world plays out with God creating a series of beautiful pairings, each with its compliment. The sequence concludes with the creation of man and woman. What does Genesis teach us about who God made us to be and how we can thrive?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. What relationships do we hurt when we sin sexually?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- In our culture, gender and sexuality are often seen as the foundation for building your own unique identity in the world. However, scripture tells us that identity is discovered through connecting with our creator. How would you explain to others why we believe that living in sync with God's "rules" around gender and sexuality actually causes people to thrive and experience life in abundance?
- How does God define sexual immorality? Is it just actions or also thoughts? How does culture define it? Why can't we just do what makes us happy when it comes to our sexuality? (1 Cor. 3:19)
- How might it change how we help those caught in sexual sin, depending on if they know Jesus or not?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Examine: Is there any sexual sin I need to repent of in order to be restored in God's compassion and forgiveness?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.