

3 WEEKS



LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS



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THE PAYOFF FOR SEXUAL PURITY

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What are your current beliefs/values when it comes to sexual purity? Where do those ideas come from?

Big Idea:

Sexual purity matters to God.

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 2:21-25

“So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’” This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two become one flesh. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.”

1 Corinthians 6:18

“Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.”

1 Corinthians 6:13

“But you can’t say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.”

Ephesians 5:3

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

Colossians 3:5

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.”

Psalms 51:10-12

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore

to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.”

Discussion:

Read the Key Scriptures and discuss the following:

1. When it comes to sexual purity, what comes to mind? How do you define it?
2. Discuss the various ways that people can be sexually immoral, whether single or married.
3. Reread Genesis 2:21-25. This passage gives a picture of the beauty of God’s gift of sexual unity as it was intended when it says that the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. How do you see sin corrupting that?
4. As followers of Jesus, what do these Scriptures (and others you may know) tell us about sexual immorality?
5. How do you see our current culture’s indifference, and even celebration of sexual immorality affect Christian’s views and actions when it comes to sexual immorality?
6. Ephesians 5:3 says there shouldn’t be even a hint of sexual immorality among God’s people. What does that mean?

7. What role does pornography have in our culture in negatively impacting the sexual purity of individuals?
8. What would it look like for Christ followers to take God’s teaching on sexual immorality seriously? For you?
9. What are you doing in your own life and in the lives of your kids (if you have them) to promote sexual purity?

Wrapping It Up:

This may be a good opportunity for you as a group to share your vulnerability when it comes to sexual purity and to pray for one another. Take time to do that together as a way of building trust and accountability and pray Psalm 51:10-12 together.

Prayer Focus:

As a group and individually, pray for Night to Shine coming up on Friday, February 7 as we minister to our friends with special needs in our community.

Memory Verse:

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” **Ephesians 5:13**



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share one thing you've been able to grow or build successfully in your life.

Big Idea:

With the right effort you can grow and build a fantastic marriage.

Key Scriptures:

Proverbs 24:3

"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established."

Proverbs 18:13

"To answer before listening—that is folly and shame."

1 John 3:18

"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

Philippians 2:4

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

Ephesians 5:21-28

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

Romans 15:5

"May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus."

Romans 12:10

"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."

Hebrews 3:13

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Colossians 2:7

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Discussion:

1. Read Proverbs 4:23. What does this passage suggest it takes to have a strong home and family life?
2. It takes effort to build a strong home and marriage. The first effort that will help build that is to pay attention. Read Proverbs 18:13. How might being a better listener help you to do that and strengthen your relationship(s)?
3. What can you do to be a better listener?
4. The second effort is to make adjustments. Read 1 John 3:18, Philippians 2:4 and Romans 15:5. After reading these passages, discuss some adjustments you can make to help your relationship grow.



5. Read Romans 12:10. The third effort is to show affection. In what ways are you good at showing affection? How might you grow in this area?
6. Read Hebrews 3:13. Giving affirmation is the fourth effort that can help build strong relationship(s). Why do you suppose that is important, according to this passage?
7. What are you currently doing to affirm your spouse? In what ways might you do more?
8. Read Colossians 2:7 The most critical effort we must make to build a strong home and marriage is to follow Jesus. He is the author and perfecter of our faith. Have you and your spouse committed fully to Him? Why or why not?
9. Following Jesus involves knowing Him by spending time in His Word and in prayer, including praying for each other and with each other. Do you struggle in any of these areas?

Wrapping It Up:

Would you commit today to these efforts so that your marriage will be strengthened?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who are walking through the 4 Bases, that they may be encouraged in their faith and commit to membership in this church family.

Memory Verse:

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:7



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Discuss how you were raised. What were the 3 key values when you were growing up?

Big Idea:

It's not activities that matter when raising your kids, but relationships. Relationship with you, with God and with others.

Key Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:4

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 13:20

"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."

Psalm 127:3

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."

Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 6:4. What kind of discipline and instruction are you practicing in your home?
2. How can you transition from control to influence when it comes to your kids?
3. How might you enhance your child's relationship with you that you might influence them in more positive ways?
4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What are you doing to advance yours and your child's relationship with God, trusting Him instead of your own understanding?
5. Are there practices you can begin at home that will help with this? Discuss.
6. Read Proverbs 13:20. Friends will determine the direction and quality of your child's



life. And yours. How are you encouraging wise friendships in their lives and yours?

7. Read Psalm 127:3. How are you stewarding the gift God has given you?

Wrapping It Up:

Take time to reflect upon your child(ren)'s relationship with you, with God and with others. Which area may most need your attention? What will you commit to doing to influence that?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our kids and student ministries as we partner with parents to tether this next generation to a relationship with Jesus.

Memory Verse:

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." **Psalm 127:3**



Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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