



Week 1
Discipleship Study
Questions

For use from 9/10/23-9/16/23



Rethinking Sexuality

In the series, we look at what the Bible says about human sexuality and allow ourselves to be challenged to rethink anything that we have come to believe that doesn't line up with what the bible has to say. This series is meant to be an invitation into finding a healthier way to view our sexuality in light of the truths of God's word.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 1

Background: In this passage, we see the Pharisees challenge Jesus on a subject that mattered then, and it still matters today: human sexuality. Their culture of course had some difference from ours, but Jesus gave them an answer that can speak to our many cultural challenges today.

Read: *Matthew 19:3-6*

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

Genesis 1:1 says *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* Then Genesis 1:27 says *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”* What do these two verses tell us about God’s role in establishing the design of our sexuality?

Why does it matter that we have a biblical theology/worldview when it comes to our sexuality?

What happens when we choose not to trust God’s beautiful design for human sexuality?

End this time with a prayer.

If you aren’t sure what to pray, try praying the Scriptures. Something like:

“Father, thank you for creating us by Your design. Thank you for forming us as image-bearers of Your divine glory. You created the heavens, the earth and every single one of us. May we learn to trust your beautiful design in the area of our bodies, our sexuality, and how we view ourselves and others. May we trust what Your Word tells us about all of these things. May You help us to find freedom and goodness in all of these things. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you'd like to learn more about sexuality, gender, and a biblical sexual ethic, we have listed and linked to a variety of resources below. Please note: While Christ The Rock may not agree 100% every statement or action step included in these resources, we believe that listening, learning, and being humble before others is essential for growth, especially regarding topics in which many have experienced hurt. Thank you for being willing to grow in loving people in the LGBTQ community with truth and grace.

Podcast: *Java with Juli: Gospel-centered conversations about sexuality*

Books:

-Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church + What the Bible Has to Say by Preston Sprinkle

-Gay Girl, Good God by Jackie Hill Perry

-Grace // Truth 1.0 and Grace // Truth 2.0 by Preston Sprinkle

-Holy Sexuality by Christopher Yuan

-Out of a Far Country by Christopher Yuan

-People to Be Loved by Preston Sprinkle

Counseling Resources: *go to www.christtherock.org/counseling*

Seminar: *Holy sexuality with Dr. Christopher Yuan // Saturday, September 30 @ 8:45am, Christ the Rock*

-Register and find more resources by going to www.christtherock.org/yuan (or register by using the QR code below!)

