

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Sex and Sexuality #1: “Why It Matters”

Tips for Leaders

As your Life Group is meeting together for one of the first times since the summer break make sure you give plenty of time for people to catch up. It is also an excellent moment for you to remind your Life Group about its vision. Take time to explain again why you're giving up time to meet together. Remember to encourage your Life Group to be extra welcoming over the coming weeks at our Sunday services. During this time of year we get loads of visitors and guests, we'd love to make them feel as welcome as possible!

CONNECT UP: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

- > Please read Matthew 19:1-12. What particularly strikes you about what Jesus says in these verses? *[Leaders note: This is a really open-ended question that will help you to gauge what the biggest questions are in your group when it comes to Sex & Sexuality. Some people may home in on the issue of divorce, in which case you may want to have equipped yourself beforehand by reading the Elders' paper on 'Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage' (available on request). Others may balk at the idea of sexual sin at all, in which case you may want to have re-read p31-34 in your Life Group Leader toolkit. Others may home in on what Jesus says about singleness at the end of the passage, something which we are going to be picking up particularly in the third week of this preaching series. Your role as Life Group Leader is simply to provide a safe space in which people can express their feelings when they read these verses. Honesty is always the precursor to increased sanctification, so allow people to be as honest as they want to be.]*
- > Many Christians wish that they could turn the clock back on British morality to the 1950s. What does Jesus have to say about that in the verses we just read? *[Leaders note: The key here is to help people to understand that the answer to our permissive society is not traditionalism, trying to turn the clock back to some kind of golden age in post-war Britain. There's much that we've rightly discarded from the 1950s – for example, prudishness and overt sexism. Jesus says that turning the clock back to the 1950s isn't any real solution. We need to turn the clock back to the Garden of Eden. “Haven't you read that at the beginning...?”]*
- > Let's read Genesis 1:26-31 & 2:18-25 together. What key themes jump out to you from this passage? What do you think Jesus means when he directs us back to “the beginning”? *[Leaders note: The key here is to help people to find the answers in the passage rather than spoon-feeding them. Themes that you might hope to draw out are 1) We have been created male and female in order to reflect the glory of the triune God 2) Men and women have been created equal, both tasked with ruling Planet Earth 3) Yet men and women have been created different: she is describe as his helper in a way that he is not 4) This is the same Hebrew word used for God being our Helper in Exodus 18:4 and Psalm 33:20, so it expresses complementarity rather than inferiority – she somehow completes him 5) Sex binds the two of them together after the first rudimentary marriage service in history – sex isn't just physical, it's also spiritual 6) This is a public event, leaving father and mother to set up a stable new family, not just cohabitation.]*
- > We just found quite a few big themes in this passage. Putting these together with all the other things that Phil said in his sermon on Sunday, what are your biggest unanswered questions so far about a biblical worldview when it comes to Sex & Sexuality? *[Leaders note: We've just started a four-week series, so help people to see that we are going on a journey of discovery as a church over these few weeks. Key things to flag to help people further are 1) the www.everydayvoices.org.uk blog, where we're posting several blogs each week throughout this series to help people explore these issues more deeply and 2) The **Questions & Answer panel** that we are running at Everyday Wimbledon in lieu of Life Groups on Tuesday 9th October (Q&A panel on issues regarding Singleness) and on Wednesday 10th October (Q&A panel on issues regarding Marriage).]*

CONNECT IN: discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- > Pray for one another, that God will help you to display his glory as people made in his image, whether you are married (v3-6), divorced (v7-9) or single (v10-12).

CONNECT OUT: discuss the implications for your interactions with the world around you

- > Pray for your friends, family, neighbours and work colleagues, that God will help you to present what you have learned to them as genuinely good news for a confused world.