

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Sex and Sexuality #2: “How Did This Become That?”

Tips for Leaders

Is there anyone attending your Life Group tonight who will be there for the first time? If so, how are you going to make sure they feel welcome and relaxed? Remember to spend time getting to know them before getting on with things as normal. If not, perhaps you could encourage your Life Group to be on the lookout this Sunday for new people visiting our Sunday services and invite them to your Life Group?

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

- Please read Galatians 5:19-24. Try to put the acts listed in v19-21 in your own words. How prevalent are these things on our TV screens and in the world around us?
 - *[Leaders note: Words such as sexual immorality, debauchery, impurity and idolatry need a bit of unpacking for most people. It's interesting that in Ephesians 5:5 Paul identifies idolatry as the root of all sexual sin – seeking to turn a good thing into a god thing, hoping to find a happiness and fulfilment through sex that can only be found in a deep relationship with God.]*
- Thinking back to all we learned last week about God wanting to display his own glory through us as men and women, how on earth did all *this* become *that*?
 - *[Leaders note: In our culture, we don't talk much about the Devil. The sheer perversion of God's glorious self-reflection in humankind therefore gives you an opportunity to help people face up to the fact that the Devil is real. The extent to which God's image in us has been shattered can only be the work of one who comes to “steal, kill and destroy” (John 10:10).]*
- Let's be honest with one another as a group. To what extent do you still struggle with impure thoughts and actions such as these today?
 - *[Leaders note: Each of our Life Groups are different, so you will be best placed to make the call on how to ask this question. Some groups may ask it and break into pairs to answer. Others may split into male and female groups. All we'd ask is that you don't shrink back from asking this question. God wants to do a convicting work in your Life Group today.]*
- What do you think Paul means when he says, “those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God” and “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”?
 - *[Leaders note: Paul is clearly stating here that there is no such thing as a born-again believer who doesn't start to become more like their Father. Nobody is ever justified without any evidence of their being sanctified. This ought to convict people to repent and to take God very seriously. See the blog <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/sinners-saints-or-hypocrites>]*
- How do you think Paul would present the gospel to one of us who is feeling convicted of sin?
 - *[Leaders note: Make sure you end with hope, giving people a grace-filled opportunity to change the direction of their life by Admitting their sin, Believing in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus, and Committing their life afresh to him.]*

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

- Paul doesn't just talk about rooting out the bad that is in our lives. He says that part of the solution is to pray for God to replace bad with good by filling us with his Holy Spirit and by helping us to walk in the Spirit's character every day.
- Lead into a time of worship and prayer which ends with praying for one another to be filled and/or refilled with the Holy Spirit. Pray for increased evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your lives as individuals, as a Life Group and for us all as Everyday Church together.

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

- Mission exists for the sake of the glory of God. Pray that the Lord will help you to proclaim the good news of this gospel to those around you, restoring the image of God in many lives.

News and Notices

- **Blog posts:** Throughout this sermon series we're posting several blogs each week throughout this series to help people explore these issues more deeply. You can find them on www.everydayvoices.org.uk
- **ASK:** Our next ASK prayer meeting is on Tuesday 25th September. All our venues will be gathering together for a time of worship and prayer.