

LET'S TALK ABOUT

SEX

"Sacred Sex"

April 11, 2010

Song of Songs 4 & Various Passages (ESV)

LG Study Guide

We live in an over-sexed, love-starved, dysfunctional culture. We are constantly bombarded with sexual images, which are nothing but cheap counterfeits for true intimacy, which we all long for. In this week's study, you will discover that God created sex to be enjoyed by us as something beautiful when it is done in the right context of relationship. So, let's get right to it!

MY STORY

1. Many people are uncomfortable talking or even thinking about sex. What do you think are the sources of anxiety or discomfort for Christians in discussing sex?
2. If you were raised in the church, were you taught a negative or positive view of sex?
3. What are some of the barriers to a healthy understanding of sexuality in a marriage? What promotes good communication about the role of sex in a marriage?
4. What are some warped views of sexuality and sexual expression? What happens when the sexual act is separated from the boundaries and commitments of a relationship?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read chapter 4 of Song of Songs before you proceed with the rest of the study this week. The Song of Songs is remarkably graphic and surprisingly positive in its portrayal of romance and sexuality.

1. Read Genesis 2:22-25. What does this passage tell you about a man and woman's relationship to each other? What does verse 25 tell you about God's attitude toward sex when he created it?

2. How would you describe the mood of the passage you read (Song of Songs 4) and why? How did reading this passage make you feel and why?
3. Read Proverbs 5:3-6. Both Proverb and Song of Songs passages portray a sexual encounter between a man and a woman. Yet, the outcome is quite different. What is the difference between the two relationships described in those passages? What do you glean from the comparison?
Clue: Read Song of Songs 4:8.
4. How might the Song of Songs help the way you view your marriage? How might it help you treat your spouse?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. For unmarried:
How can you handle the sexual temptations that assault you daily and how can your LG members help and support you? Please be concrete in your response!
2. For married:
It's easy to have a Song of Songs attitude when you are first married. How can you sustain such an attitude toward each other and continue to celebrate the gift of romance and sex?
3. Please continue to share wonderful things God has been teaching you through Life Journal.

** LifeGroup Study questions are available for pick up at the Information Center located in the lobby. They are also available online at www.ynccla.org.

** CDs of today's message will be available next Sunday in the YNCC office. Previous weeks' sermon CDs are also available in the office. All sermons are viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.

