

Message Discussion Guide SEX IN SALVATION HISTORY

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

May 30, 2010

Song of Solomon

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Ask members of your group to discuss these questions: Does the Bible present sex as good or bad? Why? How does our society present a view of sex that is distorted from God's original intention? How do different groups in our society idolize sex: men, women, singles, and married couples?

Today we study Song of Solomon to learn how we can glorify God with this aspect of our lives.

Option 2

Ask members of your group these questions: What teaching about sex did you receive as a young person? Did it come from the church, your parents, your school, others? Do you think churches can handle this topic better? If so, how?

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Review the Message . . .

SEX IN SALVATION HISTORY Song of Solomon

Competitors to Christianity in our Culture...

- Egotism: The idolatry of self.
 - Addressed in the book of Proverbs.
- Materialism: The idolatry of stuff.
 - Addressed in the book of Ecclesiastes.
- Eroticism: The idolatry of sex.
 - Addressed in the book of Song of Solomon.

Discussion

- How does it make you feel that God addressed these three areas of practical life in the Bible?

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- Why does it only make sense that God would address sex in His Word?

Application

- How does knowing that God cares about the nitty-gritty details of our daily lives affect how we will live? Especially in the areas of sex, stuff, and self?
- How do these three areas compete with Christ for our affections?

Questions about Song of Solomon in the Church...

- Is it allegorical?
- Is it typological?
- Is it literal?
 - A story or just songs?
 - Two characters of three?
 - To Solomon, by Solomon, or about Solomon?
- Musical...
 - The finest of all songs!
 - Showing us a celebration of sexual love.
 - Reminding us of cautions about sexual love.

Discussion

- Why do you think there are so many love songs in the world? How is this one the finest of all?
- How does Song of Solomon demonstrate that God intended sex to be for more than just procreation?
- How have churches sometimes communicated the message that sex is bad? Is this God's message to us?
- Read the cautions found in Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; and 8:4. Sex is only good if it is according to God's timing and prescribed context. How does this apply to students and singles? To married couples?

Application

- How can we as a church family guard the sanctity of sex among each other, whatever our circumstances? How can we look out for each other as brothers and sisters?
- How can brothers and sisters in Christ guard one another's purity? How can parents guard their children's purity?
- How does living according to God's standards for sexual intimacy glorify and honor Him? How does this apply to married couples? To singles?
- How do pornography, sex outside of marriage, and other sexual sins dishonor the beauty of sex as God intended it? How do these sins ultimately dishonor God?

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A King and His Bride in Song of Solomon...

- Exclusive Devotion...
 - They sought out only each other.
- Heated Anticipation...
 - They began with tender words.
 - That led to tantalizing work.
- Intimate Consummation...
 - They gave over their bodies to one another.
- Pure Satisfaction...
 - Emotional satisfaction.
 - Spiritual satisfaction.
 - Intellectual satisfaction.
 - Physical satisfaction.
- A Perpetual Invitation...
 - Let's do this again soon !

Discussion

- Read Song of Solomon 3:1-4; 4:12-15; and 7:10. Why is exclusive devotion important to preserving the beauty of sex as God intended it?
- Why is a lack of sexual exclusivity to one marriage partner (one man – one woman) like trading treasure for trash? Why do you think people often settle for less than God's best? What do you think is the root of sexual sin?
- Read Song of Solomon 5:10-16; 6:4-9; and 4:1-15. How do words of praise create a foundation for passion and pleasure in a marriage?
- Read Song of Solomon 4:16 and 5:1. Read Genesis 2:24-25. How are these passages related to one other?
- How does sex entail more than just physical satisfaction or pleasure?

Application

- What or who might compete for exclusive devotion in a marriage?
- How can husbands and wives take steps to maintain exclusive devotion in their marriage? How can singles keep themselves pure for their potential spouse?
- How does sex begin with tender words? If married, how can you work on speaking tenderly to your spouse? If single, how can you guard your words to maintain sexual integrity?
- How can husbands and wives develop emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical satisfaction in their marriage?
- How does the perpetual invitation of marriage mirror the grace of God toward us?

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A King and His Bride in Ephesians...

- **Humble Devotion...**
 - The King has sought after you .
- **Historic Anticipation...**
 - He is the fulfillment of all God's Word.
 - He is flawless in all His works.
- **Sacrificial Consummation...**
 - He gave over His body for us .
- **Total Satisfaction...**
 - Love Him with all your heart .
 - Love Him with all your soul .
 - Love Him with all your mind .
 - Love Him with all your strength .
- **A Merciful Invitation...**
 - He will forgive your sin !

Discussion

- Read Ephesians 5:22-33.
- How does Christ's love for us help us understand God's intention for sex? (IE, His love shows husbands how to love their wives, etc)
- How is Christ's death the consummation of His love for us?
- How do Christ's death and His offer of forgiveness pave the way for intimacy with us?

Application

- Ultimately, can marriage (and sex in marriage) offer total satisfaction?
- Who alone is worthy of our supreme love? Who alone can totally satisfy us? How does this affect our view of sex?

A King and His Bride in Revelation...

- **Continual Devotion...**
 - The King will never stop seeking you.
- **Hopeful Anticipation...**
 - Cling to God's Word.
 - Commit to God's work.
- **Glorious Consummation...**
 - Our bodies will be made complete with Him.
- **Eternal Satisfaction...**
 - He will heal our hearts.
 - We will wear His righteousness.

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- We will see His face.
 - We will feast at His table.
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- The Ultimate Invitation...
 - Will you surrender to His love?

Discussion

- Read Revelation 19:6-9 and 21:1-4.
- As Christ's bride, can we have total trust in our Groom? Will He forsake us or abandon us?
- How does Christ's trustworthiness encourage us to commit to His work and His Word?
- How should the eternal satisfaction of Christ's presence with us in the future inform our perspective on earthly things now?

Application

- Likely all of us have committed some form of sexual sin or experienced some sort of brokenness and disappointment related to sex and marriage. How does the fact that Christ will heal our hearts give us hope to carry on? How does the fact that we have His righteousness free us from the burden of guilt and also drive us away from sin in the future?
- How should complete satisfaction in Christ change one's perspective on all earthly things – self, stuff, and sex included?