

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

More To The Story / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Sex isn't casual no matter how casually it's treated.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2 NIV & Romans 12:9-10 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to recognize that God's design for sex was for it to have emotional significance. And for them to think critically about cultural messages that tell them they should be emotionally unaffected by sexual activity or content.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, it may be difficult for teenagers to recognize how media or cultural influences affect their thoughts and attitudes. They are not incapable, just inexperienced. As leaders, we can help them think critically by teaching them to name and evaluate cultural messages about sexuality, from porn to ads to peer conversations. This week in your conversations, aim for teaching them HOW to think rather than telling them what to think.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is an example of a "cringe-y" moment you had listening to a song or watching a movie with your family?
2. How have you seen sex portrayed casually on TV or social media?
3. Look at the following categories. Where do you see sex talked about as if it's...
 - a. No big deal. Totally causal?
 - b. Serious. Important?
 - c. Dangerous. Scary?
4. The speaker talked about "patterns of thinking." How would you define what a pattern of thinking is?
5. A common pattern of thinking in our culture is that sex should be casual and you shouldn't "catch feelings" or "get emotional" about it. How would you define what "casual" means in regard to sex?
6. Read Romans 12:2. What would transforming the pattern mentioned in that question above look like?
7. Read Romans 12:9-10. How does treating sex casually keep us from doing this?
8. Do you think it's possible to behave your way into a new way of thinking?
9. What are some ways we can renew our minds?

TRY THIS

This week start a text thread with your small group that asks different questions each day of the week unpacking Romans 12:9-10 in high school terms. For example:

Monday: What does "love must be sincere" mean when you're in high school?

Tuesday: What does "hate what is evil" look like in high school?

Wednesday: What does "cling to what is good" look like in high school?

Thursday: What does "being devoted to one another" look like in high school?

Friday: What does it mean to "honor one another" in high school?