



SESSION 2 - SEXUALITY AND SPIRITUALITY

SERIES BIG IDEA

Conversations can help us understand the many facets of a tough topic, which can lead to us better understand the heart of God as we seek to help others find their way back to him.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 19:13-15 and John 4:5-27 and John 11:1-44

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

This is intended to help everyone relax some around what could potentially be a difficult conversation. Remember that some people will have very definite opinions and others will be more hesitant. This isn't intended to shame people for their position, but to explore how interconnected spirituality and sexuality are. The goal of any conversation is to gain understanding of someone else's position, to share yours with love and grace, and to end the conversation with a greater appreciation for God's handiwork in each person.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Take some time to draw out what Jesus is doing in each passage. Allow your group members to ask questions of the text, and don't be afraid to tell them you don't know the answer. These passages center on how Jesus broke out of the traditional masculine Jewish role to care for children (women's work) and talk to a Samaritan woman (crossing ethnic, religious, and gender boundaries for what was 'okay'). Finally his friendships with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus show how deeply he cared for people. His life wasn't only about the cross and resurrection, he also came to show us what deep friendships looked like.

LIFE APPLICATION

This is a challenging conversation and we have intentionally included more questions. Please feel free to pick and choose the questions that'll be of the most use to a discussion with your group. Each of them are designed to discuss an aspect of Deb's theology around how interconnected spirituality and sexuality are. Remember that this isn't designed to fall into a conversation where people are talking past each other or pushing an agenda. Perhaps setting some ground rules and expectations at the beginning could help set the tone for the whole conversation. Grace, love, and compassion are the prerequisites for a conversation like this.

If a question is hard to discuss, it might help to draw out the question further. One example is in the question around the man going to a brothel, Deb goes on to further explain it by saying, "Imagine in humanity's explicit search for sex, there is an implicit search for God."

Having the guide next to you as you watch the interview with your group could help you take notes or decide which questions you definitely want to tackle and which ones you'll save for if you have extra time. Above all, remember that a spirit of love and grace is always our response to all of God's people.

CHALLENGE

Deb challenges the church to live a posture of embrace so as to bring grace back into our conversations around sexuality. How do you feel God moving you? Where do you need prayer to be open to God's voice and action in your life and the lives of everyone you'll encounter this week?