

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## **Biblical Sexuality – Jan. 16, 2022**

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- What is your reaction to the raging debates about gender, sexuality, and marriage today? Why won’t these debates go away anytime soon?
- How have sexual sins (pornography, adultery, divorce) within the church complicated these debates?
- What arguments have you read or heard legitimizing homosexual behavior and/or same-sex marriage? What do you think about these arguments?

### **3 Points of Sunday’s Sermon**

- **The Foundation**
- **The Corruption**
- **The Conclusion**

#### **I. The Foundation**

- **Read and discuss** Gen. 2:18-23.
- Some revisionists today argue that Eve was not a complement to Adam as much as a basic companion. They claim that the problem she remedied was aloneness not incompleteness. How would you respond to this idea?
- Discuss as a group how Genesis 1 & 2 establish God’s design for marriage as a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman?
  - **Leaders Cheat:** *Nathan gave 6 ways last Sunday*
- How was Eve a perfect partner? How was she both like Adam but at the same time opposite to Adam? How did she differ from the animals?

- Explain how sexual intimacy between a husband and a wife is not just a union but a reunion. How does this support the traditional view of marriage?
- How does the marriage union reflect the Trinity? Read Genesis 1:26-27 to help answer this question.
- Kevin DeYoung writes, “It would also be wrong to think marriage can be properly defined without any reference to the offspring that should (and normally does) result from the one-flesh union of a husband and wife.” What attitudes and beliefs about the connection between marriage and procreation have you encountered? How does Malachi 2:15 influence your thinking?

## II. The Corruption

- **Read Romans 1:18-27 and 2:1-5.** Briefly explain how God’s wrath operates in the present and in the future. What are some evidence of God’s present wrath on our culture?
- What are the three exchanges and resulting consequences of human depravity in Romans 1? Why do you think Paul went beyond condemning sexual sin in general (vv. 24–25) to condemning homosexual sin in particular (vv. 26–27)?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
  - *Fornication and adultery (which are in view in verse 24) are not “unnatural” sins, for they are not against nature. Of course, they are true sins for they break the moral law of God. They result in “impurity” and in the “degrading” of our bodies, as Paul says. But they are not unnatural. They are accomplished by using one’s body in a natural way. Not so with homosexuality! Homosexuality is “unnatural,” and it is accomplished by using one’s body in an unnatural way, that is, against nature. In the first case, we may well need the Bible to tell us that fornication is wrong.... But in the case of homosexuality we do not even need ... special revelation. A look at one’s sexual body parts should convince anyone that practices of this kind are not normal. – James Montgomery Boice*

## III. The Conclusion

- How does 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 hold out both the comfort and the call of the gospel? What does the passage imply about repentance?
- How should verse 11 humble us as we interact with the homosexual community?

- **Read and discuss** the following quote about “Cheap Grace” from Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - *[Cheap grace is] the grace which amounts to the justification of sin without the justification of the repentant sinner who departs from sin and from whom sin departs. Cheap grace is not the kind of forgiveness of sin which frees us from the toils of sin. Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. – Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*
- Why is cheap grace the default mode in our lives and churches? Pick one sentence in Bonhoeffer’s quote about cheap grace and explain how it challenges you.
- Paul says in Ephesians 4:15 that we are to speak the truth in love. How do we speak truth in love in the context of Biblical Sexuality?
- Discuss the following quote: “Truth without love is harsh, love without truth is not love.” Why do you think most agree with the first half of this quote but not the second?
- How does Revelation 19:6–8 give help and hope to us as believers, regardless of our sexual attractions or marital status? How will you pursue this ultimate joy and help others to do the same?

**Closing prayer** – *Father, give us eyes to see and hearts to appreciate the beauty of marriage as you have created it. Forgive us for forgetting that you have designed the marital union of a man and a woman to portray the relationship between Christ and the church. Help us uphold the sanctity and beauty of marriage. Lord Jesus, cleanse our hearts of everything inconsistent with your holy love. Help us to see ourselves as the chief of sinners and then to speak your truth out of a humble desire for your glory and the salvation of sinners. How we praise you, Lord, that the gospel is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Each one of us needs gospel grace, no matter which sins we are prone to. Give us clear-headed theology, broken-hearted compassion, and Spirit-led wisdom as we bring the gospel to a sexually broken world. In Jesus’s name. Amen. – Kevin DeYoung.*