



Sex and Love

OBJECTIVE

To help youth understand God invented sex and blessed it as a sacred experience within in the commitment of marriage.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

Sex is dynamite. God invented it as a wonderful gift to us. Used in the way God intends, it can build, bond, and make babies. It can give pleasure, joy, and comfort. But like any power, it can also be used to destroy. It can harm, humiliate, abuse, and tear people apart. It all depends on how you use the gift.

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink HT01.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

Invite youth to act out these two situations. Switch roles after a couple of minutes and involve others.

1. Your boyfriend/girlfriend is pressuring you to have sex. "If you love me, you'll do it." What do you say?
2. Your best friend tells you she is being sexually abused by her cousin. What do you say?

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Brainstorm a list of TV shows that depict sex in un-Godly and Godly ways. Which list is longer? What is the difference between love and sex? Honor all appropriate responses. Help the group understand that sex is a healthy function of a loving, intimate relationship. God intended sex not only for procreation but also for physical, emotional and spiritual fulfillment. Sex is not supposed to be considered dirty or controlling, it is blessed and intimate.

2. What is the most difficult part of living the definition of love from I Corinthians 13:4-8? What is the easiest? Explain. Honor all appropriate responses. Read the definition from the Bible text. Share your own difficulty with the definition and what you find easy to live.

3. What are the consequences of unhealthy sexual relations? Physically? Emotionally? Spiritually? Honor all appropriate responses. Create a list and start with physical. Then move to emotional and spiritual. Ask what the consequences are of disrespecting yourself sexually in each category. Also use society statistics about divorce. Honor the process, let the thinking percolate. This is a tough question.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Author: An originator or creator.

Dunamis (Greek): The root word for dynamite. Means "power."

Love: A deep and tender feeling of affection toward a person.

Sex: The gift of physical love given by God.

Yadah (Hebrew): The Hebrew word for sex in the Bible. It means literally, "to know."

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: As a group, sponsor an "Every Day is Love Day" event on a Sunday morning. Invite small groups to share responsibilities (food, communication, hospitality, etc). Make banners, have food and hand out homemade cards that say "Love is" on the front, the definition from I Corinthians 13:4-8 on the inside, and "Be a LOVE like that" on the back. Sing songs, do skits and create banner art using the theme.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

