

04 Sex & Marriage

LEADER GUIDE

BIG IDEA:

Our conversations about sex should not be a list of “do’s” and “don’ts”; rather, they should show the beauty found in the created order. Sex is meant to point us back to our creator. It is also meant to be practiced in the covenant relationship of marriage between one man and one woman.

Tips for Conversation:

Your students need to understand that how we speak about sex matters. Our culture often understands sex as play between two consenting people. It includes little or no attachment and few other boundaries.

It is vital for students to understand that God has a higher view of sex. Sex is about two people coming together to be ONE, to be unified.

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

These words, “one flesh,” literally translate to “fused together.” This fusion is not just physical; it is an emotional, spiritual, and social reality. But it will also be important to communicate to students that sex is not the be-all and end-all, the point of our existence. We can have a flourishing life without sex.

We must speak plainly about what sex includes. Oral, anal, and vaginal sex are all included in this conversation. Thus, it is important to call these acts what they are: sex.

We also need to communicate where God designed sex to take place: in marriage. Painting a realistic, not idealistic, portrait of marriage is important. First, let students know that marriage is more about Christ than it is about them.

Second, students need to understand that marriage is a possibility, not a promise. This might be something you'll need to continue to emphasize as you disciple your students. It should never be assumed that you're incomplete or "haven't arrived" in life until you get married.

As we share in the mentor video, be careful if you're married to avoid subtle messages that communicate marriage as a promise or the natural end goal of the Christian life. Be careful not to say things like, "WHEN you get married...." Rather, work to say things like, "IF God is calling you to marriage...." This will help communicate the truth about marriage as you engage in the world your students inhabit.

Questions for Small Group:

1. Do you feel like you need to get married and be having sex to be happy? Why or why not?
2. How does popular culture influence this conversation? How does the church influence this conversation?
3. If you could choose how the church talks about sex and marriage, would it sound like it currently does? Why or why not?

Additional Resources:

TOOL: Weekly devotional

