

YOUTHWORKS BIBLE STUDY SERIES

TOPICAL

Sex, Relationships and the Bible



Julie M. ...

Introducing Sex, Relationships and the Bible

Dear leader,

You have chosen a set of studies that cover an important topic for young people today. The young person today is bombarded with the world's views on relationships with the opposite sex. These studies are designed to give the young person God's views on relating to the opposite sex. The hope is that they will come to see that living God's way is the better choice.

Be prepared that each young person may be at different stages in regards to relationships. Some may never have had a boyfriend or girlfriend and some may have had many. The group may also have had a wide variety of experiences of relationships especially with issues such as sex, homosexuality, etc. They may also struggle with the fact that their parents are not reflecting God's pattern of relationship outlined in these studies.

Your role as the leader of the young people will vary for each person as you use these studies. For some of the young people your role will be to give them hope that they are not the only one who feels left out in relationship with the opposite sex. For others you may need to urge them to change a current lifestyle that is not in line with God's plan and destructive for them. While still others may need comfort over past regrets and assurance that previous actions are completely forgiven by God when we turn to Christ.

This requires you to be sensitive and open to discuss issues that may arise from these studies. It is very important that you are approachable in regards to the issues raised in discussion. Your support and understanding can give comfort and even healing that the young people may find nowhere else.

I hope these studies will assist you to teach your young people to have the kind of relationships they were designed for, relationships that honour God and, as a result, are healthy for them.

Regards
Julie Moser

Some hints

These studies will work best in a single sex group. The sensitive nature of the topics covered means that the young people may not be able to discuss as openly as they will need to if the opposite sex is present.

If issues are raised that are too difficult for you to handle, speak with your church leader.

It is important that the group feels comfortable to share honestly in the presence of others. For this reason, the young people need to be able to assure each other that there will be no gossip about what is discussed.

It may be helpful for you to ask some of the elders or other wise adults in your church to join you for some or all of these studies. They may be able to contribute in areas where you feel ill-equipped (for example you may be single and not confident to discuss marriage).

Important note

Never promise a young person that you won't tell someone else something that they tell you. These studies may provoke a young person to relate to you situations they are involved in or previously experienced that need some kind of intervention. Some examples are: incest, rape, pregnancy or sexual abuse. In such cases you need to talk with someone in authority such as your minister or a government institution that can deal with these kinds of issues.

Being in love

1

Thinking about what movies, TV and modern songs teach us, what does it mean to be in love?

How are you supposed to feel when you are in love?

What are the good things about being in love?

Do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the statements below?
(Discuss your opinions)

- Being in love is about how you feel.
- Love is permanent.
- You can be in love with two people at the same time.
- Being in love is not always about good times.
- You can 'fall out of love' as easily as you can 'fall in love'
- You have to work at being in love.

:: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO 'BE IN LOVE'?

1. A strong desire

The book of Song of Songs is about the romantic relationship between two people.

Read the following verses and describe how the couple feel about each other.

Song of Songs 1:15–16

Song of Songs 3:1–4

Do you think being in love always starts with a strong desire?

2. Strong desire that leads to a commitment

The strong desire of romantic love does not last forever. It changes into something deeper as a couple gets to know each other better. We know that the strong desire is more than just a feeling when it leads to something permanent.

What do the following verses teach us about the commitment of love?

Song of Songs 8:5–7

Genesis 29:14–20

:: TRUE LOVE IS...

The greatest example of love in the Bible is demonstrated by God’s love for us. Read John 3:16, 1 John 4:10 and John 15:13.

How is God’s love different from some popular views about what love is?

How can we show the same kind of love for the person we are ‘in love’ with?

From today’s study, how can two people know they are ‘in love’?
