

i. **Expectations | Safe & Comfortable Environment**

- Be respectful | to leaders, to each other (listen well, no side convos, etc)
- Appropriate conversations | during group or outside of group
- No crude jokes | this topic can feel silly at times but this be a sensitive topic
- Ask questions | Notecards - fold it up and drop it in the love machine over there

*We wont be able to address all these questions and if thats the case it's a great opportunity to talk with your parents about it or possibly in small groups on Wednesdays

i. **Why Talk About Sex?**

- a. Sex can be uncomfortable to talk about... but it is so important that we do
- b. Reality = We live in sex-saturated society
- c. Every day, whether we realize it or not, we are bombarded with harmful messages and inaccurate ideas about sex - what it is, how we should think and feel about it, whats good and not good, etc
 - "Whatever feels good do it"
 - "As long as theres feelings of love go for it"
 - "As long as you both agree do whatever you want"
 - "Everyones doing it?"

ii. **Where Do These Ideas Come From?**

- Movies, TV, Music, Social Media, Our friends

iii. **Ideas Have Consequences**

- a. Our exposure to these ideas can lead us to make foolish decisions
- b. Result in deep wounds, hurts and painful memories that can last a lifetime.
- c. This not the life that God has in mind for us.

For that reason, we are going to dive into Gods word, biology, psychology, and other disciplines to discover the Truth about God's beautiful design for sex and hopefully help you navigate the challenges you face now and in the future.

Transition: A life with Jesus and following his way is not just the right way to live but ultimately the best, fullest, most free, and full of goodness, truth, and beauty. My hope is that we would catch that vision together and be encouraged to live faithful lives in light of that!

Lets Pray

iv. **When We Want To Know and Understand...**

What something is, why it was made, how it was made, the best practices, the best place to look is typically the *designer or creator* of that thing.

For example: When the iPhone first came out in 2007, the best information on the purpose, functions, and design of the product came from Steve Jobs and his team of developers.

- We too have a Designer or Creator who made us on purpose for a purpose and we can look to Him to understand who we are and how we are to live.
- Sex is one of those areas of life where we need to be asking the question, “what is Gods design (intention) for Sex (thats how we want to live - fullest way to live)

Transition: Before we can answer that question we need to start with some more basic and foundational questions

v. **Building A Foundation**

1. What does it mean to be human?
2. Whats the truth about guys and girls?
3. What is God’s design (intention) for Sex?
4. How do we live in light of all of that?

vi. **What Doest It Mean To Be Human?**

This may be the most important question we can ask. There is not a simple answer to this but we are going to focus on a few aspects of this question.

1. Identity - who am I?
2. Purpose - why am I here? Am I here for any particular reason?
3. Value - do I matter?

Transition: The answer to these questions is the basis for our laws, human rights, and a variety of other implications on how we live our live and interact with others

vii. **So What Are Some Ideas Being Communicated Regarding This Question?**

- a. Greta Christina - atheist blogger and speaker
 - In Summary, we are no more valuable than our pets, than earthworm, or a dinosaur. Taken further...
- b. PETA president and cofounder Ingrid Newkirk
 - In summary, there is nothing special about humans relative to other living creatures.

Transition: What does this idea look like in real life? Go no further than our friend Harambe

viii. **Harambe Video**

- a. Peta released this statement the next day.
- b. If you take this idea seriously = humans have no God-given value, meaning or purpose - we are just here for a time, die, and decompose like any other living thing

Its no wonder that we live in world where humans are thirsty for value, purpose and meaning and often try to find it apart from God:

- achievements and failures
- relationships: what people think of us
- things we enjoy - if we are having fun, feeling good about ourselves

Transition: Genesis 1 presents an answer to this question that looks much different, than the answer our culture often offers. One that's rooted on a God who created the Universe and everything in it with purpose and intention. Not just a meaningless process

x. **Genesis | Beginning**

Genesis can be tricky if we don't understand the purpose of what's being communicated as a whole.

- a. Genesis is not meant to give scientific details of creation but to give a true picture of how things came to be - some things may be symbolic, others not, but all TRUE (reality)
- b. In Genesis 1, we get a glimpse of God's ordered, intentional creation of the Universe
- c. Before pausing from his creative work, he creates his most special creation

xi. **Read Genesis 1:26-28**

What does this passage say about being a human? What are the implications?

xii. **"Made in the Image of God"**

- a. Hebrew: tzelem Elohim or in Latin Imago Dei - literally means "the Image of God"
- b. Image of a thing that represents and reflects something else

Picture: Represents what is there

President: is an ambassador or representative = image of our country

- c. There are tons of implications to being made in the image of God but we are just going to touch on a few today as it pertains to the questions of:
 1. Who am I?
 2. What is my purpose?
 3. Do I matter? Am I Valuable?

xiii. **Who Am I?**

According to Genesis 1 alone, at the core of the identity of all humans are two main things.

- ★ God's unique creation. (rational, moral, spiritual - soul) | More than just a body
- ★ God's representative | meant to reflect the character of God to the world (love, joy, peace, patience, creativity, etc)

Transition: This is who you are! Which goes into question of why we are here?

xiv. **What Am I Here For?**

We were made, intended, purposed:

- ★ To trust, treasure, honor - reflect his glory (who he is) — OVERFLOW
- ★ To be stewards of earth - to take care of the earth and what's in it and to create more awesome things
- ★ To be in relationships with God and others

Transition: We were made to represent and reflect God to the world

xv. **Do I Matter?**

- ★ Humans are more valuable than anything else in all creation
 - ★ Humans are intrinsicly valuable (natural; built in)
 - ★ More than just a body - heart, should, mind
- This value is not dependent upon race, social or economic status, gender, health, age
- Everyone of us was made on purpose and for a purpose - “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139)

Transition: So all humans bear the “image of God” which gives us identity, purpose, a value. There is also something true about who are that is tragic

xvi. **We Are Sinful**

In Genesis 3 - We see sin enter the world

- a. Adam and Eve did the only thing that God said not to do. That was to take fruit from the tree of knowledge and good and evil.
- b. God was the one that provided what was good so he held the knowledge of good and evil but... this tree represented a choice, to take matters into their own hands or to trust God
- a. The essence of sin: is taking matters into your own hands

xvi. **Consequences of Sin**

- a. DEATH
 - Physical death - disease, sickness, cancer, etc.
 - Spiritual death - separation from God
- b. All things “not good” in the world | The world is not as it should be because of sin.
- c. All of us fall short, are sinful from the time we are born
- d. Our sinful actions, attitudes, & thoughts have natural consequences (lying = doesn't end well)

Transition: This is a reality for every human that has ever lived!

- a. Every human is made in the image of God
- b. Humans are also sinful and broken and as a result deserving of life apart from God

Transition: But there is good news!

READ Romans 3v23-26

1. We have REDEMPTION (we are rescued from our sin) in Jesus!
2. Being saved through faith in Jesus not only means that we are free from the penalty of sin but we are invited into the full life that Jesus has to offer

We are so valued by God that he did everything that needed to be done so we could be free and live the life he intended us to live!