



*Written by
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“A Bird's Eye View”

Discussion Activities

(Discussion Leader's Copy)

The Message of “A Birds Eye View”:

Our need for love is very much the same as God's need for love. We were made in His image; He made us for fellowship (*love*); therefore, His greatest joy, (*love*) is our greatest joy also!

When we obey God's rules for love, sex, and marriage, we will protect our emotional well-being and be able to enjoy the relationships God gives us. We can learn a great deal about God's feelings for us when we start to examine our feelings for each other. Love is God's idea, so when we study Him, we learn more about how to make love work!

Activity Grouping:

These discussion/activity sessions work best if the group is divided into six groups: Three equally-divided groups of young men, with each group led by one of the three male players in “A Bird’s Eye View,” and three equally-divided groups of young women, each group led by one of the three female players. If possible, move the groups into different rooms or to the far corners of the auditorium so they can ask questions and speak freely without the opposite sex hearing all!

Activity Time Frame:

The following is a detailed discussion/activity guide. Do as little or as much of this as you have time for. Read through the questions before the performance of the play, then decide which questions and activities you want the performers to address. This debriefing time is designed to be a flexible follow-up.

ACTIVITY 1 “Do You Want A Cookie?”

Materials:

- A new, unopened box of Oreo cookies
- A plate

Procedure:

1. Introduce yourself, have the group sit in a circle and share their first names.
2. Open the cookies and take out the first cookie. **DO NOT EAT IT; ONLY LICK IT ON BOTH SIDES!** Then, put it on the plate.
3. The group will ask you why you only licked the cookie and did not eat it. They will ask for a cookie, too!

Say: This is what I do with cookies. It will all work out okay. Let's move along now and discuss what we just saw.

4. Continue on with the following discussion, but be sure you lick at least one cookie and put it on the plate every few minutes as time goes on.
5. Ignore the curious comments as the group asks why you are ruining those great Oreos by licking them, then keeping them all to yourself!

Discussion Questions For Mime Scene I: *(answers in italic)*

1. Why was the girl so excited when the first man singled her out and showed interest in her?
(We all want to be preferred above all others. It is a compliment to us. God wants to be our only God and the most important one in our lives, too.)
2. Why did she give him her heart?
(She was made with a need to be admired and adored because she was made in the image of God; God wants our adoration, too!)
3. Why do you think the first man started playing with her heart?
(We like being in control and deciding how much love we give and when.)
4. Do we ever play games with God's heart?
(Yes!)
5. How do you feel when your love is rejected and your heart is broken?
(Everything you had to offer another person was not good enough for that person.)
6. Can we break God's heart? How do you think that makes Him feel?
(We can break God's heart by rejecting Him, too.)

Discussion Questions For Mime Scene 2:

1. Why do you think she took him back?
(Her need for love was bigger than her fear of being hurt.)
2. Did God ever take a risk in giving His heart back to mankind after we rejected him over and over again?
(Yes, God's people broke God's heart over and over again, but God still came to earth in the form of Jesus Christ. God gave us His heart again in Jesus.)
3. Why did he want to have sex with her?
(Sex is a natural desire for close intimacy. It was given to us by God as an expression of a bond between two people. If our hearts, minds, and wills are not totally surrendered to God, we will engage in sex instinctively rather than in God's divine plan of marriage.)
4. Why do you think she gave him the key?
(She thought that sex was a way to keep the man committed to her. She wanted a close relationship, but intimacy comes as a friendship between two people grows over time. Intimacy comes when people are committed to each other for life. We should not want "instant" intimacy even though we live in an "instant" society. Sex is only one kind of intimacy.)
5. Why did he leave her anyway?
(He didn't want the emotional responsibility of taking care of her. He wanted to have sex just because sex is fun!)
6. When the garden fell, what do you think that represented?
(She became emotionally vulnerable, and dependent on him. Sex opened up her heart to this man and caused a psychological bond that God intended to happen when we are committed to another person for life. That kind of emotional dependence cannot come and go with different partners. It can mess up your mind and can make you emotionally unable to love, trust, or give yourself completely to anyone. Fear of rejection may always be in the back of your mind, and your future relationships can really suffer.)

Conclusion of Activity 1:

By this time, you should have licked the entire box of Oreos and the plate should be piled high. Hold up the plate and offer the group a cookie. No one will want one!

Says: What's the matter? Don't you guys like Oreos?

(Allow time for discussion.)

You body is like these Oreos!

God created you for intimacy with one person.

Your virginity is like an unopened box of cookies.

Be careful who you allow to open your box, because you are only issued one wrapper.

Guard your cookies!

How did you feel when you saw me lick cookie after cookie?
(*What a waste; that is not what the cookies were designed for, etc.*)

I spoiled these cookies by treating them in a way they were not designed to be treated.
I ruined them for myself and for you.
That is what happens to sex when we make up our own rules for it.

Why do you think God says not to have sex before marriage? Is it because He hates sex?

(Sex was God's idea! He loves it! He made men and women to be a team in every way. Sex is a result of a committed love relationship; not a substitute for it. Once men and women engage in sex, they become emotionally vulnerable and psychologically dependent on one another; God designed our psyche's to respond that way. When we have sex promiscuously, we rob ourselves of intimacy because we become emotionally desensitized to it.)

ACTIVITY 2 “Can You Feel This?”

Materials:

A roll of duct tape
A volunteer

Procedure:

1. Ask one volunteer to offer his/her forearm.
2. Place a six-inch piece of duct tape firmly onto the arm. Press down on the arm hairs to make a tight seal.

Say: *This tape represents the first time you have sex. Do you feel the tight bond the tape is making on your arm? Now, tell me what you feel when I do this.*

3. Rip the tape off of the arm quickly so it doesn't hurt too much. You will get a scream the first time.

Say: *The impact of the first time you have sex is like the impact of the first time I pull this tape off. It is intense and memorable. Now tell me how you feel this time.*

4. Use the same piece of tape (Not a new piece!) Place it over the exact same area of the skin you used before. Try to make it stick again.

Say: *The first time I pulled this tape off, you had an intense reaction, now tell me how you feel the second time I pull this tape off.*

5. Pull the tape off again. This time the tape comes off much easier.

Say: *This time you noticed it, but it was not nearly as intense as the first time, was it? (Ask the volunteer to comment on the difference.)*

6. Repeat the tape on the arm two more times. By the fourth time, the tape will hardly stick at all, and the impact of the ripping will be minimal.

Say: Each time you have sex with a different person, the impact of the experience becomes lessened and more common place. God designed sex only for a committed relationship between a man and a woman inside marriage because He celebrates intimacy. Don't cheat yourself out of it!

Discussion Questions For Mime Scene 3:

1. Why couldn't she put her trellis back together alone?
(Because it wasn't meant to be broken. God designed that deep bond to be only between permanent partners. God loved her and helped her through another person. This person does not have to be another man. It could be anyone: a friend, a pastor, a parent, but we must take the responsibility to actively love and help those people who have been broken and who are looking for love.)
2. How did it affect her when the second man showed an interest in her?
(She did not trust him. She was afraid at first, until she realized that he wanted to help her rebuild her life. He cared about her as a person.)
3. Why did she give him the key?
(She thought that this is what she had to do in order to keep him in her life.)

If time permits, discuss a related topic: The sexual behavior of women and how they use their bodies as a tool to get the emotional support they need from men. (Don't go off on too much of "bird walk," but say what needs to be said here.)

4. Why didn't he take it?
(He knew that sex belongs in marriage. He made the choice to become intimate with her emotionally through friendship rather than physically, through sex.)
5. How were the two men different? Which one is the kind of man who would be able to sacrifice his needs and make a relationship work over the long haul?
(The first man was a "taker" who cared about his own needs, then bailed out once he got what he wanted. The second man was a "giver" who was able to help her rebuild her life, and didn't worry so much about what he was going to "get out of the deal.")
6. How does our attitude toward sexual obedience reflect our attitude toward every other kind of obedience to God's laws?
(If you rationalize your disobedience in sexual behavior, how many more other acts of disobedience towards God's laws will you be willing to rationalize?)
7. Do you think people can get "spiritual AIDS"? Why or why not?
(Yes, you can care less and less about pleasing God and more and more about pleasing the world. It affects every area of your life, and eventually you will "spiritually" die.)

ACTIVITY 3

“The Up’s and Down’s of Relationships”

Materials:

- A sturdy bench or wide chair
- 2 volunteers

Procedure:

1. Ask volunteer 1 to stand up on the chair.
2. Ask volunteer 2 to stand at the base of the chair beside volunteer 1.
3. Ask volunteer 1 to try to pull volunteer 2 up onto the chair/bench beside him/her. It is next to impossible to pull volunteer 2 up. Be sure volunteer 2 does not step up.

Say: It is very hard to pull somebody up, isn't it? When you find yourself in a situation where you are surrounded by opportunities to compromise your spiritual integrity, you are going to have a very hard time trying to pull your friends up to where you are. Be careful when you enter certain situations and rationalize it by saying, "Oh, I'm just witnessing to my friends who are into this thing, but I won't be tempted." Watch what can happen.

4. Ask volunteer 2 to try to pull volunteer 1 down off of the chair. Volunteer 2 will have no trouble doing it, and volunteer 1 will be quite helpless to resist because the law of gravity is on volunteer 2's side.

Say: See! It is easier to pull someone down than it is to pull someone up. Be careful who you choose as friends and where you decide to "hang out." The law of gravity pulls downward; don't open your self up to that law.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you go about "dating God"?
(You commit yourself totally to God and make the choice to learn more about Him so you can apply His guidelines to your life and make your life an "abundant life" experience and not a tragic failure.)
2. Why is it good advice to "date God for a while" before you start to get serious with someone?
(God will teach you how to love "sacrificially" as you begin to understand how much He loved us through Jesus. That is the only kind of love that makes a relationship work.)

ACTIVITY 4 “Scripture and Prayer”

Materials:

A Bible

Procedure:

1. Read 1Corinthians 6: 18-20
2. Ask the group to respond to ways in which we can “flee immorality.”
3. Remind them that God wants to protect our bodies and keep them free of physical and psychological disease. That is the reason for His command to save sex for marriage!
4. Remind them what it means to treat our bodies as the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”
5. Stress the incredible price at which we were bought.
6. End in prayer.

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