

# Small Group Study

## Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people

## Discussion

Created for Connection: “Created for Connection”

## Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

### Genesis 1:26-28 (NLT):

*26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”*

*27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

*28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”*

### Genesis 3:1-11 (NLT):

*1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”*

*2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”*

*4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”*

*6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.*

*8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”*



### Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. Who are 1-3 people that you are closest with?
2. What 3 things give you the most enjoyment in life?
3. At what time in your life did you feel the best about yourself?

10 *He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."*

11 *"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"*

## Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

I. In the first chapter of Genesis, when God creates the first people, he blesses them. This is significant. God's blessing is the peace of God resting on His people. The story begins with humans in right relationship--in healthy, life-giving connection--with their maker. All of their other relationships flow from the health of this one central relationship--people and God. They're connected with the earth, with each other. They're naked and feel no shame.

And then everything goes south. They choose another way. And they become disconnected.

God goes looking for them in the garden, asking, "Where are you?" The first humans make coverings of fig leaves, and then they're banished from the garden.

Disconnected from each other. Disconnected from the earth.

The woman is told that there is going to be conflict between her and the man. The man is told that there is going to be conflict between him and the soil.

And this is where you and I come in. We were born into a world, into a condition, of disconnection. Things were created to be a certain way, and they're not that way, and we feel it in every fiber of our being.

Do you sense this "disconnection" in life? In what ways have you seen that life is not the way it was meant to be--both on a societal level and through your own personal experience?

2. We're severed and cut off and disconnected in a thousand ways, and we know it, we feel it, we're aware of it every day. It's an ache in our bones that won't go away. And so from an early age we have this awareness of the state of disconnection we were born into, and we have a longing to reconnect.

Scholars believe that the word *sex* is related to the Latin word *secare*, which means "to sever, to amputate, or to disconnect from the whole." This is where we get words like *sect*, *section*, *dissect*, and *bisect*.

Our sexuality, then, has two dimensions. First, our sexuality is our awareness of how profoundly we're severed and cut off and disconnected. Second, our sexuality is all of the ways we go about trying to reconnect.

For many though, sexuality is simply what happens between two people involving physical pleasure. But that's only a small percentage of what sexuality is. Our sexuality is all the ways we strive to reconnect with our world, with each other, and with God.

Is it possible to just have “casual sex”? Do you know anyone who was very active sexually and yet very disconnected and lonely? Is it possible to be married to somebody and sharing the same bed and even having sex regularly and still be profoundly disconnected?

Is it possible to be sleeping alone, and celibate, *and* to be very sexual?

3. Rob Bell, the author of the book this message series is based on, ends this chapter with the following:

*The other day my five-year-old son asked my wife, “Mom what does sexy mean?”*

*She thought about it for a second, and then replied, “Sexy is when it feels good to be in your own skin. Your own body feels right, it feels comfortable. Sexy is when you love being you.”*

Fred in his message this week, made the point that “sexy starts on the inside, connecting with God and our own self.”

What do you think about that? Do you feel “sexy”? And if not, what would it take for you to feel “sexy”?

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God bless,

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