

# The Gathering Community Group Guide

## SexEd // Week 4 // The purification of sex

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1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### Message Summary

For all the bad things we've could be feeling about the first 3 weeks of our series – shame, regret, anger and a whole host of other emotions – the most important emotion to walk away with this week is hope. Hope because our nature is changed. Hope because our identity is changed. Hope because what Jesus did for us on the cross means that our past will never be more powerful than our future. Hope because the cross means that, while our past may explain us, it will never define us.

1. **Our past is real:** One of the reasons why this series has been so difficult for many is simply because we don't like to talk about our past. The Bible, though, takes a different approach, and that's clear in our passage in 1 Corinthians 6. Paul writes a ton of things about the past of the believers in Corinth in verses 9-10, and the reality is that we can't afford to forget who we were, because then we may start to forget who we are and how powerful the work of Jesus was on the cross. After all, the cross was necessary because our past is real.
2. **Our future is bright:** How powerful was the cross? Powerful enough to redeem us from a terrible, painful past! Powerful enough to not simply make us better, but to make us NEW. We were dead, and now we're alive, and because we're new creations (2 Cor. 5:17), we've got new identities! Because we have new identities, our lives will begin to include new activities. Jesus' activity changed our identity, which in turn will change our activity!

#### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Describe your identity in 3 words. How have those words changed over the years? What were the key times or events that changed them?
- Talk for a few minutes about why identity has such an impact on activity. In other words, why do you think so much of what we do is directly related to how we see ourselves?
- Let's read through some passages of scripture and see what they have to say about our identity as Christians: John 1:12; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 2:13-14; Philippians 4:13; John 14:16; Romans 5:1; Hebrews 13:5. Which of these means the most to you currently?
- Paul mentioned a line from "The Lion King" where the father lion said to his son: "You are more than what you have become. Remember who you are." Do you think that sometimes our heavenly Father thinks that of us? How do you respond to that?
- In the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-31), the turning point happens in verse 17 with the phrase: "when he came to his senses..." He suddenly realized that he was living in a way that was incompatible with his identity, and he made a change and returned to his father. What are some of the moments throughout the SexEd series that have been like that for you? What changes will you be making to live consistently with your identity in Christ?