

CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



Week 3 – Jack & Jill
Week of January 28th, 2018

#CityGroupsTally

REMINDERS for leaders:

Welcome back! Here's a few reminders before you get going again:

-  **VIDEO:** This week our video will be after the first two questions on purpose. Please be sure to show it in the group meeting time.
- Pray, Pray, Pray!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. EAST CAMPUS UPDATE: We'll be at Swift Creek Middle School! Pastor Matt Crawford and the East Campus Launch Team will have their first public church service on Sunday April 8th.
2. Connect 101 Class: (Sun. 2/4/18) at 4pm at the Sessions Rd Campus auditorium. If you are new to City Church this class is for you. We'll go over our mission, vision, beliefs and getting connected at City Church.

BIG IDEA(s):

Jack & Jill went up the hill... this week we'll be combining several topics from our Jack & Jill series. Buckle up! We'll learn together about God's clear design for marriage, gender and sexuality. We will also discuss how and why we can engage in conversations about all this, with people who disagree. The reality is that we are in a cosmic battle, not a culture war or simple difference in opinion. (Eph. 6:12) However, we'll start with a softer opening question for accountability before jumping into the deep end. Have fun!

PRAY: *Pray for your group's gathering and for the Holy Spirit to help us make disciples.*

READ: Matthew 19: 1-6 // Eph. 5: 22-33

HEAD (20 minutes)

- 1) **Accountability:** How have your personal growth commitments gone the last two weeks? What did you decide to do differently in your growth plan for 2018?
- 2) **Opener:** How do you respond to a dating couple who says, "show me in the Bible where it says we can't have sex before marriage"? What verses could you take them to? What does the Bible teach about sex? (See Resource Page below)



WATCH THIS WEEK'S VIDEO

- 3) **Read Eph. 5:31-33** - Is our understanding of marriage and sexuality a gospel issue? If so, why? If not, why not?
 - What are some ways God designed marriage to point to the gospel?
 - How does the gospel give hope to people who've had sex before or outside of marriage?
- 4) **Gender:** How are men and women different? the same? What are ways culture is attempting to erase the differences?

HEART (15 minutes)

- 1) Eph. 5:25/Col. 3:19 - What is a real man? What are ways a godly husband should treat his wife? What holds men back?
- 2) Eph. 5:22-23 - What is a real woman? What are ways a godly wife should treat her husband? What holds women back?
- 3) What are some ways you can more fully embrace your God-given biblical male/female identity? How can you support your spouse or brothers and sisters of the opposite gender in this?

HANDS (15 Minutes):

- 1) How can married people better integrate and care for single people in the church?
- 2) How can single people help support marriages & families in the church? (Heb. 13:4)
- 3) What are some redemptive ways you can engage in conversation with people who disagree about gender, marriage or sexuality? How can the group support you?

Pray: Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another and your lost friends.

RESOURCES:

- **“Gender: A Conversation Guide” by Hunter Leavine & Brian Seagraves: Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2rrf7cE> | BuildingBibleFoundations.com**
- <https://erlc.com/search?q=gender>

9 Bible verses that teach sex before marriage is sin:

Does the Bible teach that sex before marriage is a sin? (There is not single proof text, but the Bible is clear on this issue. The answer is “yes”...now lets have a look some verses that speak to the issue.)

1. 1 Corinthians 7:2

“But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”

In this verse, the apostle Paul describes any activity outside of marriage as “sexual immorality.” That means when we read of “sexual immorality,” it includes sex before marriage as one of many examples of sin.

2. Hebrews 13:4

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

What does an undefiled marriage bed look like? It looks like a bed that a husband and a wife share exclusively together. Any kind of sex that is *before* or *outside* or *in addition* to a married relationship of husband and wife is sinful according to the Bible.

3. Acts 15:19-20

“Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality....”

After the Jerusalem council met, the earliest group of Christians decided that Gentiles (meaning anyone who was not a Jew) could be Christians, but that they should refrain from sexual immorality, among other sins. In the wider biblical context, as we noted earlier, sexual immorality includes sex before marriage.

4. 1 Corinthians 5:1

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.” (See also, Ephesians 5:3)

This one is interesting. A man was sleeping with his stepmom or mother-in-law outside of marriage. Paul is very clear that this is a grievous sin, one that not even non-Christians in the city of Corinth were guilty of doing!

5. Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (See also Colossians 3:5)

In this long list of sins, the sexual sins that Paul includes are “sexual immorality,” “impurity,” “sensuality,” and even “orgies.” It would be very difficult to argue that Paul gives approval of sex outside of marriage, given these strong words against sexual intercourse of various types and kinds. If elsewhere, Paul gives permission of sex between a married man and woman, then all other forms of sex are sinful.

6. I Thessalonians 4:3-5

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God...”

Here, Paul contrasts a believer’s self-control over his own body with living out of control, burning in passionate lust. The former is living a life that is pleasing to God and is holy, while the other is living a life that clearly does not know God. In which group do you think a hook-up culture that uses apps like Tinder is? Is sleeping with someone you met a few minutes ago demonstrating control over one’s body, or is it done in the passion of lust?

7. I Corinthians 7:8-9

“To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

Paul clearly spells out that for unmarried, single people, God desires abstinence from sex for them. If abstinence is not something they can live with, then they should seek to get married. It’s clear that sex within the context of marriage is not a sin, but outside of marriage it is sinful.

8. Genesis 2:24-25

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

From the very beginning, God’s design for sex has been between a man and a woman in the context of marriage. This is not held out as the ideal, but this is supposed to be the norm for all sexual intercourse according to the Bible.

9. I Corinthians 6:18-20

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Finally, the last few verses that speak to the question of sex before marriage mention the basis of this difficult claim on our lives. A Christian is to refrain from sexual intercourse with other people because Christians belong not to themselves, but to God. We have been given the great gift of God indwelling us—the Holy Spirit lives within us—so when we join ourselves to others through one-night stands we are violating both our own body and the Lord who has purchased us by pouring out his own body and blood for us.

<https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/9-bible-verses-that-teach-that-sex-before-marriage-is-a-sin>