



**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 2**

**Life and Action**  
**Sexuality**

**Bible Readings**

Genesis 2

Genesis 17

Song of Songs 4

John 8



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of sexuality in the Bible
- Express the theme or story in your own way
- Apply your learning from the story to your own life and community

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** What does the Bible say about sexuality?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

How do you think sex and God relate to each other?

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** Song of Songs 4

Many people don't think that sex and God go together well. There are some that even wrongly believe that sex came after Adam and Eve sinned, rather than being part of God's original plan for humans. In fact, throughout the Bible God often describes how he wants to relate to us as a bridegroom and his bride with the promise of intimacy after.

God created humans to be sexual as well as be driven and capable of many other things also (like to be creative, caring, sacrificing, etc). That means like all our drives and qualities, we can honour God in it. Like beauty, sex can point to a deeper spiritual reality.

- What do you also think of the significance of how man and his wife were naked and felt no shame (Genesis 2:25)?
- Why do you think God asked Abraham to do something so permanent to his penis as way of reminding Abraham of their mutual promises (Genesis 17)?

The biblical book "Song of Songs" was considered an adults-only book in traditional Jewish culture.

Reading Chapter 4, why do you think a book like this is included in the almost middle of the Bible?

Although Christians often quote that God judges all sins as equal (Romans 3:23), people's sexual behaviour often gets more attention than other behaviours and attitudes, possibly because of what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:18.

However, what is Jesus' actual behaviour to people involved with sexual sin (John 8, John 4, Luke 7)? It might be interesting to see what sins Jesus was much more critical of than sexual ones (but that's a whole different topic).

Anyway, what would Christians be known for if they all acted today as Jesus did towards those people judged as 'sexually sinning'?

There are obviously a lot more passages in the Bible about sex and sexuality. These are more big picture ones, in that, they demonstrate in broad strokes how God approaches this topic.

But people have traditionally tended to focus on verses related to what people shouldn't do in regards to sex.

Why do you think they focus on those instead?

### Explore – Express

Make a 3-5 minute YouTube video presentation on how God views sex.

Plan first what you are going to present. It might be helpful for you to think through questions like:

- What do you also think of the significance of how man and his wife were naked and felt no shame (Gen 2:25)?
- Why do you think God asked Abraham to do something so permanent to his penis as way of reminding Abraham of their mutual promises (Gen 17)?
- Why is Song of Songs in the Bible, considering it is largely poetry about love and sex?
- How does Jesus behave towards those 'judged as sexual sinners'? What does that mean for those that claim to follow Him? Are they known for behaving in the same way?
- Why do you think Christians are seen more as people trying to stop people from enjoying sex than those that cherish and value it?

### Explore – Integrate

- The Bible generally talks about sex within the context of marriage (long-term committed relationship with promised responsibilities to each other). What do I need to do to see it in that way also?
- When I think of myself as a sexual being in God's eyes, do I feel shame or joy? If there is shame, what can I do differently in order to enjoy God's grace?
- Are there things that I should talk to someone else about in this regard?
- What do I need to change in how I behave towards others (especially those judged as sexual sinners)?

### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

#### Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to see sex and sexuality the way God intended it.

Give thanks for the body that God has given you.

Pray that I may be like Jesus to those judged as sexually sinners.