

This study guide is intended for the use in personal or small group study of SEX GOD: EXPLORING THE ENDLESS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SEXUALITY AND SPIRITUALITY by Rob Bell. In no way has it been authorized by Mr. Bell or Zondervan books. Feel free to use it, but do not charge any funds for its use.

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1. When you think about the world around you, what are the things that seem the most broken? How do you think they got that way? How do we grieve over these different types of brokenness?

2. Bell tells a story about an abused woman (p.35), and of her husband. It is often easy for us to sympathize with the plight of those whose lives have been broken. How, though, can we grieve for those who are guilty of doing the breaking? How can we care for both? When have you been on the receiving end of being broken? How did it feel? When have you been guilty of doing the breaking? How did that feel?

3. In what ways do you feel disconnected, or separated from the earth – the world around you? Where do you think this feeling comes from? How do you go about reconciling this feeling of separation from the earth?

4. When you examine your life and where you are today, is it different than you thought it would be when you started on this path? How do you reconcile your present circumstance with your past vision?

5. Bell notes that the word sex may be derived from the Latin word *secare* – “to sever, to amputate, or to disconnect from the whole.” He says “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” (p.40) With this definition in mind – what moments in life most connect you with the people around you? How do you go about seeking to meet this primal desire for connection?

6. How can one be celibate, yet be deeply sexual? How can one be fully engaged in sex, yet be deeply unsatisfied and unisexual? Why is this disconnect between the physical act of sex and the spiritual purpose of sex so profound?

7. In the church, how do we become disconnected from each other? Why do we feel so much better about blaming an institution for this disconnect than naming the individual(s) in it who have hurt us? When move from relationship to relationship, moving on when we are displeased or hurt rather than reconnecting with someone who hurt us, how does this affect us?

8. "You cannot be connected to God until you are at peace with who you are." (p.46) Are there aspects of yourself or your life where you feel disconnected from yourself – where you are not at peace with yourself? What do you think would bring you that peace? How do you reconcile with yourself to feel "sexy on the inside"?

***THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...***

In this chapter, what is the “this” that is really about “that”?