

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. In the wild, sexuality is a basic need, just like the need to eat, breathe and sleep. There is nothing that defines codes or morality around it. Have you ever witnessed human behavior that seemed to you to be little different than that of animals? Are we, as humans, subject to the same forces as animals? Are we captive to them? What separates us from them?

2. How do you interpret the Greek saying “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food” (p.52)? If your body is “a temple of the Holy Spirit”, how do you reconcile this with the animal instinct? Is animalistic sexuality inevitable? Is it unrealistic to expect single people to abstain? How is the view of “abstinence as unrealistic” a voice of despair? What do we mean when we say “I’m only human”?

3. How is the opposite impulse – complete asexuality – as much a source of despair as animal sexuality? Where did you first have sex explained to you? How did your parents talk to you about it? What did you hear about it that was most helpful to your understanding? Why do we deny and suppress our questions about it – and what is the result?

4. How do you manage the inherent good in something God created (sex, food, drink, work, etc.) and the abuse of that gift from God? When you avoid working through the complexities that differentiate the good from the abuse of that good, what are the dangers? Why is it so hard to navigate those complex differences?

5. Have you ever felt alone, with questions and difficulties nobody else experiences? Why is it so hard to talk about these? If you found someone who had also experienced those same difficulties, how did it feel when you heard them say “me too”?

6. “The truth is, we’re crammed full of sexual energy. It’s how we’re made. We have cravings and desires and urges and temptations that can easily consume us and make us feel helpless in their presence. We have to talk about what we do with the forces that rage within us. We have to get it out or we will begin to die on the inside” (p.62) What does Bell mean by this? How do you talk about these things, and with whom?

7. Bell says “Either we’re acting in ways that move the world away from *tohu va vohu* [chaos], or we’re contributing to the chaos and lack of order.” In what ways have you contributed to the chaos and lack of order in your own life? How have you acted in a way that moved away from chaos and disorder? How do you balance those two impulses within yourself?

THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...

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