

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 story of Amnon and Tamar, we read of a man who was “so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill”, but after raping her, “hated her more than he had loved her”. What do you think the change was in Amnon’s heart? Why, after getting what he desired, did he despise it – and why so quickly?

2. What do you think Bell means when he says “once in awhile, lust may even have something to do with sex” (p.69)?

3. In the Garden of Eden, Eve is promised something more than what the object of her temptation can deliver. What things in your life have you sought and received that ended up promising more than they could deliver? Why do you think that was?

4. “Lust promises what it can’t deliver.” (p.72) and it “comes from a deep dissatisfaction with life” (73). What things have you said to yourself “If I just had that/him/her/it...” I would be happy? What do those things reveal about your internal peace with yourself? How do you go about finding that peace without seeking it via lustful means? How do you find freedom from these?

5. Lust leads us to lose our sensitivity – we are deadened to the healthy feelings and urges in the realm of our lust, we lose our appreciation for it. Where have you personally observed this downward progression in the people in your life? How did it affect them? How did it affect you?

6. “Those who have been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands.” Bell explores the wisdom of this advice from the Apostle Paul, (p.80-82) and the way it goes beyond the command “don’t” to replacing the sin with something useful. How might this play out in the sins that are the greatest temptation to you – the ones you find yourself returning to?

7. What are the good things for which you have a passion, channeling your energies into them? How might you use this passion to escape the lusts that tempt you? How is this better than simply avoiding or repressing the object(s) of your lustful desires?

THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...

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