

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 have you risked yourself in a way, core to your identity, and given the control to say "yes" or "no" to someone else? How did it turn out? If you were rejected, how did you respond? If you were accepted, how did that make you feel?

2. Have you ever had your heart broken by a lover? How was the pain of that rejection different than the pain of other losses? Was the pain worth the risk you took in allowing your heart to be held by another?

3. How is the pain of a broken heart related to the pain experienced by God? What is it we do that causes that pain? Why does God continue to risk, instead of just forcing us to love Him? Wouldn't that be simpler?

4. "Love is handing your heart to someone and taking the risk that they will hand it back because they don't want it. That's why it's such a crushing ache on the inside. We gave away part of ourselves and it wasn't wanted." (p.98) Bell describes how God demonstrated His love to people (p.98-100) through Jesus. Why was this necessary?

5. He continues to describe Jesus' life (p.100-105). How does the balance of power and control figure into Jesus' life, and how is it related to the risks of love? How was his weakness actually a demonstration of strength?

6. What does Bell mean when he says, "If you have ever given yourself to someone and had your heart broken, you know how God feels?" How do you see the cross as being God's way of saying "me, too"?

7. "In matters of love, it's as if God has agreed to play by the same rules as we do. God can do anything – that's what makes God, God. But God can't do everything. God can't make us love Him – that's our choice." (p.109) How does this make you feel? If you knew that God could have a broken heart when you reject Him, how would you respond? How might you act differently than you do today?

THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...

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