

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 God rescued His people in the desert, the language used in Exodus is the same language used in a Jewish wedding ceremony. Why might this be? The Ten Commandments is seen as a *ketubah*, a marriage document that both the husband and wife enter into. How is this different than you may have understood this document?

2. In the wilderness, the people of God were kept under his *shekhina*, His glory. In a Jewish wedding ceremony, His *shekhina* is represented by a *chuppah*, a cloth suspended between poles, only large enough for the bride and groom to fit under. How is this symbolically similar? The marriage is then considered consecrated – sacred and holy. What does this mean?

3. After the ceremony under the *chuppah*, the marriage is not complete until the couple has had sexual relations – with the wedding party waiting outside. Compared to modern weddings, how would you feel about this tradition? Why does sexual union seal the marriage, and not the vows? How is this counterintuitive to your understanding of marriage? Why might the consummation of sexual relations be a “higher view of sex” than our modern tradition, in which it often occurs long before a wedding ceremony?

4. What does it mean to keep things under the *chuppah*? How is this important to a marriage relationship? What are the kinds of things that should “stay under the *chuppah*”? What things are OK to bring out? What examples have you heard of, or seen personally, where the consequences of sharing what should be kept under the *chuppah* caused lasting damage?

5. What is the danger of humorous banter between a couple in public? How can you tell if a line has been crossed? How do you maintain respect in your communications? How do you keep the important things under the chuppah when times are tough?

THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...

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