

Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | September 25, 2022

Begin with prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week in this series, use the **Prayer of Humility** below to help center your time together on God. To do so, send the prayer out to your group (via text, email, GroupMe, etc.) so everyone has access to it. Then, give your group a few moments to pray in silence and respond to the prompts.

“Lord, I ask that You would prepare my heart for our meeting today.”

“Help me to see each member as You see them.”

*Recall the name and face of each individual in the group.
Ask for God’s help to see each one for who they are, without judgment.*

“Help me to hear each member in truth.”

*As you think of each individual, ask God for the ability to listen intently.
Acknowledge any personal struggles or personality conflicts with others.
Talk these struggles or conflicts over with God.
Ask for a way to listen without hindrance.*

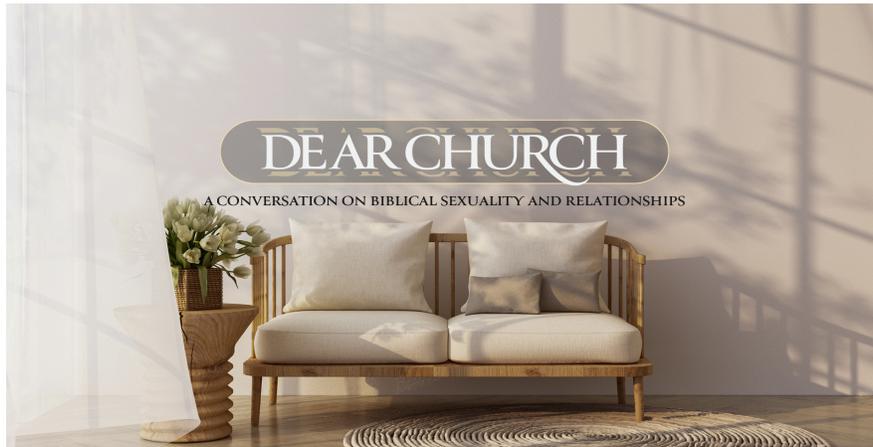
“Help me to respond in love.”

*Affirm your desire for God to guide the meeting.
Admit your limitations to fix the problems and struggles of others.
Acknowledge your inability to fully understand any one person’s story.
Ask God to draw each member closer to His love through the meeting.*

Once you’ve finished praying, as the host, pray aloud for your group time.

Break into gendered groups, read Scripture, and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

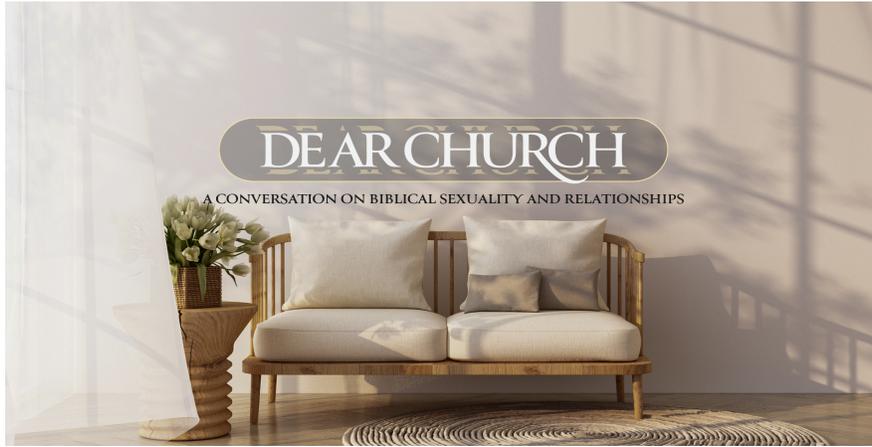
Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.



- Like each week, assess the posture you found yourself in as you received Sunday’s message on pornography. Did you sense openness in yourself, or were you closed-off? Explain.
- Why do you think this is a problem that so many people deal with?
- How proximal is this specific conversation to your own life? Have you or someone you know struggled with this?
- If you have or currently are struggling with pornography, how has it affected your view of sex, your view of yourself, and your view of other people? Explain.
- At what age were you exposed to or first discovered pornography?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7.** Do you believe that God can sanctify you and free you from this? If so, what could your life, relationships, and self-worth look like? Note: “sanctification” means continual transformation into the likeness of God, which is a work that the Holy Spirit does in us.
- In what ways have you potentially experienced sanctification in this area already?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.** What elements in this passage from Paul do you think could apply specifically to the topic of pornography?
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about our church becoming a “porn-free” community. What would it take for this group to make that a reality?
- Emerson also talked in the sermon about how (1) not everything is beneficial; (2) you’re not to be mastered by anything; and (3) Christ’s body is not to be profaned. How do each of these correspond to the topic of pornography? Which of these three things that we need to “know” resonated with you most? Why?
- **Read Hebrews 13:4 and Ephesians 5:31.** What was God’s original intent for marriage and sex?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.** We know that when we join the family of God, we are made into a new creation and our past has no power over us. How do you think remembering this truth about yourself could help armor you against struggling with this topic?
- What specific action step do you need to take as a result of this message (either to help yourself or to help be an accountability person for others)?

Pray for one another and for our church (10 minutes).

Spend some time laying hands on each person and praying for them as a group. Pray for purity and holiness for that person as well as for the strength to help others in their pursuit of purity and holiness.



Pray that our church might become a porn-free community.

Come back together as a large group. Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.