

ED YOUNG

SEXUAL REVOLUTION



SEXUAL REVOLUTION

**GOD CREATED IT.
CULTURE REDEFINED IT.
WHO GOT IT RIGHT?**

STUDY GUIDE

CONTENTS

Week 1	Stripped Devotionals	7 18
Week 2	Heaven on Earth Devotionals	29 40
Week 3	Leashed Devotionals	51 62
Week 4	Do Your Thing Devotionals	73 84
Week 5	Messed Up Devotionals	95 106
LEADER'S	GUIDE	
Week 1	Stripped	117
Week 2	Heaven on Earth	123
Week 3	Leashed	129
Week 4	Do Your Thing	135
Week 5	Messed Up	141

Copyright © 2007 by Edwin B. Young. All rights reserved.

Written permission must be secured from the author to use or reproduce any part of this book, except for occasional page copying for personal study or brief quotations in critical reviews or articles.

Ed Young Resources
Published in Dallas, TX by Creality Publishing.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version (North American Edition), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

Any emphases or parenthetical comments within Scripture are the author's own.

ISBN 10: 1-934146-39-0
ISBN 13: 978-1-934146-39-2

Cover Design and Layout: Jason Acker Design

Small Groups are a vital part of how we do ministry at Fellowship Church, just as they are in many churches around the world. There are a number of different theories on how small groups should work and they are all great in different ways. The book you are holding is written with our model in mind. So take a minute to read the following explanation, then feel free to adapt as necessary.

Each of our small groups practices a three part agenda in every meeting. That agenda includes a social time, a discussion time, and a prayer time. Each of these elements share equal importance, but not necessarily equal time. To help you get the most out of this book we have included an explanation of each of the parts.

The first element of every small group meeting should be a time of socializing. This phase of the meeting should be about 30% of your time together. Welcome everyone as they arrive at the host home, and make visitors feel welcome by introducing yourself and the other members of your small group. Enjoy some snacks, or if your group prefers, a meal together.

Then move on with second part of the meeting, the lesson. The lesson itself may take as much as 50% of your group's meeting time, but remember, it is not the most important element. You may want to start this phase of your meeting with a short "icebreaker" to get everyone talking. The questions in the "Start it Up" section of each chapter are what we refer to as "level the playing field" questions that everyone should be able to participate in, regardless of their level of spiritual maturity or Bible knowledge. As your group moves through the "Talk it Up" section in each chapter, remember that it is more important to finish on time than to finish each and every question. It is okay to skip some questions to be sure you allow enough time to take care of the third phase of the small group time: "Lift it Up."

The "Lift it Up" section is a vital part of every small group meeting and should be about 20% of the meeting. During this time you will be able to share with the group what God is doing in your life as well as asking the group to support you in specific prayers. To help focus this time, there are one or two questions at the end of each study that will prompt prayers based on the material you have just talked about. There is also a space for you to write down your prayer request(s) so you don't forget them and so you can communicate them clearly when it is your turn. Below that is a place to write down the prayer requests of the people in your group so you can remember and pray for each request throughout the week.

As an additional tool to assist you in your journey of spiritual development, there is a "Step it Up" section at the end of each session. This section consists of five devotional thoughts that reinforce the lesson you've just completed and are designed to help you develop a regular quiet time with God. To get the absolute most from this study, I challenge you to take five or ten minutes a day to read and apply these devotionals to your life. If your group meets twice a month or bi-weekly, choose five of the intervening days to incorporate these thoughts into your devotional life.

In select studies, we have incorporated special notes for youth groups using this material. You will notice a special icon (Y) used several times in each session. This indicates that there is a comment or question especially for youth included in the leader's guide for that part of the study. When you see that icon, simply turn to the leader's guide for that session in the back of the book and find the corresponding (Y) and letter (for instance, (Y)-a). These notes are designed to help each discussion time connect with the unique needs and issues of youth.

Do you realize that the first question asked about you was a sexual one? Really, before you even entered the world, people were already associating you with sex. 'Is it a boy or is it a girl?'



Everyone is sexual; God made us that way. He made some of us to be male and some of us female. But most importantly, God made us to be human. God's goal for us is to be fully human – fully alive!

What does it mean to be fully human? It means that we have physical bodies and spiritual bodies. An animal is just a physical body, and angels are just spiritual, but God brought those two beings together when he created man and woman in his image.

Because we are fully physical and fully spiritual, everything we do impacts our body, mind and spirit. That means sex is spiritual! If we want to live the life God wants for us, we must understand both the physical and spiritual dynamics of sex.

In this study we are going to reconnect God with sex. We will take a look at the awesome choices we have related to our sexuality and how to revolutionize our lives and relationships by moving closer to God's incredible design for sex.

Let the Revolution Begin!



START IT UP

Some of us lived through it. Others of us are here as a result of it. And still others may have no idea what it was. I'm talking about the cultural phenomenon of the 1960s—the sexual revolution.

1. Of all the changes in our world since the 1960s, which ones do you think have been the best and worst?

One definition of revolution is “change that ushers in something better.” The sexual revolution of the 1960s brought change; but did it bring positive change? Or could it be that we've been lied to? Could it be that the revolution was really a grand scale illusion that only brought about widespread pollution?

This study is designed to start another sexual revolution—not one like the 1960s version, but one that has the power and the grace of God to bring about a sudden change for our best. Over the next several weeks, we’re going to look at sex through the eyes of God and see the potential it has to revolutionize our lives. But change always brings about some conflict. And oftentimes, people get nervous when they think of sex and God in the same arena.

If the thought of talking about sex within the context of God and the Bible makes you tense, you are not thinking right. I read a while back that the average man has a sexual thought every twenty seconds. I would venture to say that women think about it often as well. So the issue is not that we don’t think about sex. The problem is, we don’t think deeply enough about it. Over the next several weeks (and hopefully for the rest of your life) we’re going to take off the floaties and dive deep as we discover what it means to do sex God’s way.

To revolutionize our view of sex, we’ve got to first learn to think right. For too long, people have separated sex and God. In effect, we’ve kicked the bed out of church and the church out of bed. We’re going to bring the bed back in church and the church back in bed. And we’re going to ultimately recognize something revolutionary—sex is worship.

TALK IT UP

What comes to your mind when you think about a bed? For some of you, it’s a place of beauty, relaxation, comfort. You picture a bed with a comforter, decorative pillows, and nice 800 thread count sheets. For you, the bed is a refuge, a place to rest and recharge. The bed is a symbol of intimacy where you and your spouse have sexual intercourse—where you make love. 📍-a

For others, the bed is a place to crash, to sack out. The sheets are rarely even laundered and the bed in never made. It’s chaotic. It is not a place of intimacy, but a place of rebellion. It could be that the bed is a place of regret for you because you’ve been sleeping in the wrong bed with the wrong person.

Or maybe you’re single and wondering, “Will someone ever occupy the other side of the bed? Will I ever get married?”

However you view it, the bed is a powerful symbol that can bring a variety

of images and questions to our minds. But of all the images, church is probably not one of them. And thinking of the bed in church is strange and uncomfortable for us because most of us were never taught to think right about sex within the context of God’s design.

2. Growing up, what did you learn about sex—either from your parents or your church? 📍-b

Most of us did not grow up in a church where we heard the right teaching about sex. I doubt very many of us grew up in an environment where sex was talked about lovingly and openly. The result is that some people have the idea that we should just suppress our sexuality. And for far too long, the church has said simply one thing about our sexuality, “You’re not really a sexual being. Just deny those desires. When they begin to surface, just take a cold shower.”

Others have been taught by culture to overly express their sexuality and go for it with whomever, whenever, and however. Their mantra is, “Just do it!” For them, it’s all about the buzz and the high and the thrill and the chill of having sex anywhere, anytime and with anyone. If that is your mindset, you, too, are missing something essential about sex.

When it comes to our sexuality, the church has taught us one thing: not to. Culture, on the other hand has only taught us how to. This revolution is going to teach us when to, why to, and who to so that we can get the most out of our sexuality.

Sex is a God-given gift. But so often, it is used in a God-forbidden way. We’ve got to take this God-given gift and use it in a God-driven way. Sex is a supernatural gift reserved for a man and a woman in the context of marriage. What is marriage? It’s a covenant between a man and a woman; a lifelong commitment that is to be supported, protected and fought for—no matter what.

3. Why do you think God designed sex for the context of the marriage and not as a gift to be shared flippantly? (Y)-c

When it comes to the revolution, right thinking is paramount. But here is something else we may never have considered: Sex is something we are before it's something that we do. All of us are sexual. If you're a single adult, you're sexual. If you're a teenager, you're sexual. If you're a married with three kids and two dogs and a mortgage, you're sexual. Everyone's sexual. God intentionally made us that way, so it's something we are before it's something that we do.

BEING FULLY HUMAN

The beginning of the Bible tells us that the earth was formless and void. It was chaotic. And in Genesis 1:2, the Bible says, "...the Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the waters." That word "hovering" is the word picture of a bird hovering over her nest to protect and provide for her young. It was in this context that God began his creative process. As he did, the creations became more complex as the days went on. On day five, God created his most complex creation to that point.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24-25

Notice what God is doing. He is creating the animals. But you're not an animal. God had not finished his creative process yet. There was one more

creation to be made—human beings. Humans are not animals. I know for some that might be revolutionary, but you are not animals.

Throughout Genesis chapter one, we see a distinct rhythm in the description of God's creative process. But in Genesis 1:26, the rhythm breaks abruptly. The original writer intentionally broke the rhythm in order to show the uniqueness of what it means to be a man or a woman.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27

4. What do you think it means to be made in the image of God? (Y)-d

Being made in the image of God means we are both physical and spiritual. We have a physical body and a spiritual soul. There's integration with the physical and the spiritual. And because of that, there is no such thing as a separate spiritual life. The physical and the spiritual are inseparable.

Being made in the image of God also means we're made uniquely male and uniquely female. There is a unique masculine soul and there is a unique feminine soul. Thus, when a husband and wife have sexual intercourse in the marriage bed, they are reflecting the full nature and the character of God. You've got the masculine character qualities and the feminine character qualities uniting in the most physical and most spiritual act of worship.

When we have sex outside of God's design, though, we're having what I call "little sex." Little sex is not what God had in mind when he created us. It leads

to nothing but trouble. God wants us to have big sex—sex that will lead us to a great life. ④-e

Sex is significant, but many people are having little sex. If you buy into the culture's idea that it is “just sex,” then you are having little sex. You are missing the physical and spiritual side of sex. If we want to have big sex; if we hope to start this sexual revolution, we must first recognize that we're made in the image of God, who wants the best for all of our lives.

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18

After each piece of creation God looked at what he had done and said, “It is good.” However, after God looked at the man he created, he said, “It is not good for man to be alone.” God was not satisfied with man going through his existence on earth alone. What did God do? Did he leave man on his own? No. God decided to create a suitable helper for Adam—Eve.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Genesis 2:22

Scripture does not tell us what went on when Adam first saw Eve, but try to imagine Adam's surprise. Here's Adam, who has been alone until God makes a perfect woman for him, and all of a sudden God presents this woman to him as a perfect companion—emotionally, spiritually, and even physically!

The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:23-25

God thought up sex. He designed man and woman to be able to have sex. God gave us sex before sin entered the human equation. Sex is not dirty. It's not bad. But, it must be used in a God-given way—in a God-ordained context.

5. Why do you think it is so hard for our society to trust God's plan for sex? ④-f

HUMANS, NOT HOUNDS

My wife and I have a Doberman Pinscher named Dolcé. One weekend I brought him to church, thinking he would be fine in my office during the worship services. Big mistake! The music started...Dolcé was fine. He was just hanging out in my office. Everything was great—until I began to preach. The walls between the auditorium and my office are thin, and in the middle of my message I began to hear Dolcé's distinctive, “Arf, arf!” But I wasn't the only one who heard it. The barks echoed across the entire auditorium.

I looked at my wife Lisa with that, “You need to get up there right now” look, and she made a beeline for my office, hoping to calm Dolcé down. But there was no calming him down. Dolcé wasn't thinking rationally. He didn't care that church was going on. He was simply responding to his animal instincts.

C. S. Lewis once said that when you remove morals from the human equation, you remove humanity from the human equation.


I'll say it again—we are not animals. Yet, so often people walk around like animals, enslaved to their sexual instincts to have sex anywhere and with anyone. This is most obvious with the men (sorry, guys, but it's true).

Have you seen these gentlemen's clubs? They call them gentlemen's clubs, but during this sexual revolution I want to change the name to kennel clubs. Places like that do nothing more than treat men like dogs, appealing to an animal-like sexual appetite.

When we take sex out of context; when we take this God-given gift and use it in a God-forbidden way; when we have little sex, what are we doing? We're going against the grain of God's creation. We're moving backwards from Genesis 1:26 to

verses 24 and 25. We're essentially saying, "I'm not human. I'm an animal."

Do you know where the f-word comes from? The origin of the f-word is a farming term. It has to do with the mating of animals. We have taken that term and we have placed it on human beings. Here our great God wants us to be fully human. He wants us to have big sex and enjoy this phenomenal gift. Yet, we act like a bunch of animals.

Are you telling me you're a dog? You're not a dog. You are uniquely made in the image of God. You are fully physical and fully spiritual. We each have a specially created human soul given to us by God himself. That makes us much more than animals. -g

6. Why don't you think more people recognize how little sex makes us more like a dog than human?

Not only does having little sex take us in reverse of God's creative plan, it causes us to strip others (no pun intended) of their humanity. Every day, in high school locker rooms, health clubs, coffee shops, and bars across the country people say things like, "I got a piece this weekend." "I'd like to get some of that." "Girl, look at that!"

What are they saying? "People are merely products for our consumption." It's a pervasive message in popular culture that bombards us everywhere we go. People are just objects to be used for our pleasure.

We lust and look at people as objects. We surf the internet and television channels for skin. We see an image or read about someone. And though we don't know the person, we strip them of their humanity and use them for our sexual fantasies. While we're doing it, we don't realize that we're stripping ourselves of our humanity. We're failing to recognize God in the whole picture. And because of that, we fail to see his image in either ourselves or the other person.

7. Why do you think sex is one area of our society where it is accepted to treat a person like a product? -h

Well, it's time that we turned the tide and started a sudden change—a change for the best. Our sexuality is something we are before it is something we do. It's not that we don't think about sex. It's that we need to think about it in a deeper way. God is the God of sex. He thought it up. It was given to us before sin ever entered the human equation.

In John 10:10, Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The word "life" in the original language means physical and spiritual life. It means full integration. It means hitting on all cylinders. And for us to do this, we've got to get the proper read on the gift of sex.

Sex is all about connection. It's about reflecting the nature and the character of God. So, whether you are single or married, it is my prayer that this study will help you realize your role in God's plan for sex. I pray that you begin to look at it through God's eyes and that some things will change in your life. It is my prayer that the sexual revolution begins with you.

8. Based on what you studied today, how would you explain God's stance on sex to someone who has never heard it?

DAY 3

Genesis 2:21-24

Adam had been surrounded by other living animals, but none of them were able to provide the connection and companionship Adam needed. God stepped in and created Eve. The result was something spectacular!

The Bible describes that man and woman become one flesh. That is a remarkable phrase. As a man and woman unite in marriage, they share something that connects them in a way unique to that marriage relationship. There is no doubt that intercourse provides a significant component to their unity. Their physical connection is combined with a spiritual connection that unites in a way God designed to enable two individuals to become one.

Sex outside of marriage is not an issue of the absence of connection as it is the absence of the value God created sex to have. When sex is experienced outside of marriage, the two compromise their humanity by becoming like animals. The act loses its value, becoming a scratch to an itch instead of an act of worship.

Ask God to give you an appreciation for the remarkable gift of sex and to show you how to protect your sexuality.

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 4

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Have you ever turned on the news to see a story of about vandalism or arson at a church? It is amazing that even those who do not follow Christ recognize the significance of defiling a church. The reporters stand in front of the devastated sanctuaries or other structures and somberly report the damage with an air of indignation.

If those who do not follow Christ can recognize the sanctity of the sanctuary, why can't those who follow Christ recognize it? When we accept Christ, God places his Spirit in us. We become a sacred dwelling for the Spirit of God. Our bodies become a sanctuary. The biblical evidence is indisputable, yet many Christ-followers choose to ignore it.

Some Christ-followers think destroying their temple has something to do with piercings and tattoos. There is a physical aspect to us being the temple because God has given us physical bodies, but the spiritual significance cannot be ignored. We are not only physical beings, but also spiritual beings housing God's Spirit. Protecting the temple must have a more holistic view than just protecting our flesh. It means recognizing the physical and spiritual nature of sex.

Are there any decisions you are making that show a lack of respect for the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 5

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Corinth was a wealthy city with international influences. It was established in a strategic location for commerce so merchants, along with their goods, brought many religious philosophies. The result was a melting pot of ideas about philosophy and religion.

One of the famous religious influences in Corinth was the temple of Aphrodite. Part of the worship for this goddess included temple prostitutes. It is believed that there might have been as many as 1,000 temple prostitutes that descended on Corinth each night to practice their trade.

Paul knew Corinth was an area inundated with sexual temptation. Our culture shares that characteristic with Corinth. In the midst of those massive temptations, Paul warned the Corinthians about the significance of sexual immorality. There is something unique about sexual sin. Paul tries to explain it by pointing out that their bodies are temples of God as well as reminding them about the unifying nature of sex.

Have you ever played one of those arcade games where you try to direct a crane to pick up a toy from the pile of prizes? You waste your time and money trying to snag that one object of your desire only to discover the game is set up to take from you, not to give. Occasionally you can get a prize out of the machine, but the prize will never be worth what you wasted to get it.

That is sexual immorality. It takes and takes and takes with the promise of giving you the object of your desire only to eventually disappoint you. That is why God tells us to flee sexual immorality. Only God's plan can deliver sex in a way that fulfills not only your physical desire, but also your spiritual desire.

Where are you getting too close to sexual immorality and need to turn and run?

Notes:

Prayer Requests:
