



HIM + HER
STUDY GUIDE
 WEEK 3



MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Romans 1:18-2:4
 SECONDARY:
 Matthew 19:4-5

MAIN POINTS:

As Christians we are called to balance living in God's grace and truth.

JESUS CONNECTION:

We have all sinned and all need forgiveness that only Jesus can give to us.

@HopeHSM

1. READ
The Bible

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it's on the back*).

2. OBSERVE

The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET

What Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?

Romans is a book in the New Testament written by Paul. It was originally written as a letter, without chapter divisions and today we are looking at a passage that spans over two chapters to get a full picture of the truth and grace contained in the Scripture. Paul states same-sex sexual lust and behavior are sins, but he isn't just singling out this sin and mentions many other sins. Paul follows this list of sins with a reminder to not judge each other but that it's God's kindness that leads us to repentance.

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

What is this text's clearest meaning?

4. APPLY

Getting Personal

How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?

What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?

What is God saying to you through this Scripture?



HIM + HER DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3



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LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To give students a safe environment to read and discuss different Scriptures about same-sex sexuality.

THINK ABOUT THIS

We are called to share God's truth in love. **Just a reminder that we are not here to teach our opinion but God's word.** It can be tempting to want to pick and choose which Bible verses we believe. If some of your students start sharing thoughts like, "I don't believe THAT scripture," remind them of these verses: **"All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you." – Deuteronomy 4:2

Also, **go into your conversation with the mindset that one of your students might have this sin struggle.** This will help you speak with compassion and grace as you discuss God's truth.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What are different opinions you've heard about same-sex sexuality?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about what was shared in the video?

SHARE: Today's passage is long, but it gives us a complete, balanced picture of both God's wrath at sin and His kindness towards the sinner.

READ ROMANS 1:18-2:4 and discuss:

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. What questions do you have about it?
3. This verse is showing us that by God's definition same-sex lust and relations are sin. During the message, they shared that attraction and temptations aren't sin, but lust and sexual behaviors outside of God's design for marriage are sin. In your own words, what are the differences between attraction, temptations, lust, and behaviors?
4. How can we turn to God when we face temptations?
5. Does anyone know what repentance means? (Repentance is when you are genuinely sorry and want to change and move in a direction closer to God.)
6. This verse, just a few after the first one we read, says that God is rich in kindness. What are different ways we can see God's kindness?
7. We all need Jesus. How can remembering that help us reflect God's kindness to others?

NEXT STEPS

Some of the people in the video shared how it was hard for them to talk about their experiences with others.

- 1) If a friend shares they have this struggle, how can you show them love and kindness?
- 2) If you find yourself struggling with these feelings or thoughts, reach out to a parent or godly adult in your life to walk alongside you.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Romans 1:18-2:4 NIV

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"

Matthew 19:4-5 NIV

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?'"

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Due to the nature of this topic, we want you to be extra prepared in spirit, heart, and mind. Please be sure to take extra time on your own before leading lessons to:

- Read over all the material in leader packet,
- Attend huddles on time,
- And pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare you and lead you as you lead your students in discussion.