

HOLY

Sexuality

WEEK 2 // SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

SERIES GUARDRAILS:

As this series delves into some topics that can be heavy, complex, and/or personal, we want to start by recapping the ground rules & acknowledgments Pastor Brannon gave us to start this series. These will help guide you and hopefully shape a safe environment for the Holy Spirit to move full of *grace and truth* (John 1).

1. Recognition #1: We recognize this is a deeply personal conversation.

- *Reminder: we may all have different ways that we relate to this conversation, but shaming someone who comes at it from a different viewpoint is **never** Jesus-centered. We see **individuals over issues, and people over policies.***

2. Recognition #2: We recognize this is a deceptively complex conversation.

- *Guidance: this guide may better be utilized for individual conversation. Where you are is where you are, and you may not be in a season where you can have the right conversation the right way with the people around you. That is okay. Don't force it. Fight against the enemy wanting to lead you into the sin of fighting, slandering, or hating one another.*

3. Recognition #3: We recognize this is a deep conversation.

- *Go slow. Don't rush. Don't stop listening. Don't stop learning. Don't stop loving. Don't stop praying. Don't stop seeking Jesus together - as long as it takes.*

4. Recognition #3: We recognize this can be a confusing conversation.

- *Listen well. As James says: "let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." [James 1:19]*

Before you continue, stop to pray for one another (or your personal posture) and that the Holy Spirit would lead your **conversations** and **listening**. Ask Jesus to be glorified in your time together.



SUNDAY TEACHING RECAP:

Week two is a starting point for engaging your world in the tension of courage and compassion. Diving into John 8 and Jesus' encounter with a woman who is in sexual brokenness and sin. We need to examine this scripture to see Jesus rightly and the posture He is modeling for us to take when we encounter sexual sin (across the board).

GROUP CHECK-IN:

If going through as a group, we moved this portion until after the guardrails and recap. This week, the question remains the same: **"In one sentence, what emotions/thoughts are you feeling as we walk through this series?"**

Guidelines: Jesus sees where each of us are. Jesus loves us in this. And Jesus is always working and calling to Himself. Whether angry or scared, frustrated or burdened - Jesus is big enough to handle and we can together move closer to Him as He is in the business of reconciling and restoring all things (including you and me!) to Himself.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- In John 8, Jesus asks a question to help us see something we didn't see before. There are multiple parties and postures in this scene. Read John 8:3-11 together as a group. You can read multiple times, in different translations, to help you hear God's Word.
 - What is Jesus' response to sexual sin?
 - What are the postures displayed by those in this scene?
 - What is challenging or encouraging about Jesus leading with grace over judgment?

- The challenge of Jesus in response to the religious leaders was not diminishing the weight of sin but recognizing all sin for what it is - it is not in tiers as though some need less saving. Jesus' rebuke is that judgment came from sinners because she sinned differently than they did. All sin separates us from a Holy God. Take time to talk through this. Where have you believed you are less deserving or more deserving of Jesus? Do you see your sin as separating you from God? Do you believe your sin to be less than others?
 - *Caution to groups: this may be better as personal reflection quietly as a group than dialogue out loud. We are all in process. As the Holy Spirit leads, talk, confess, encourage, and pray out loud.*

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Brannon challenged us with six reasons that Christians should acknowledge sexual brokenness, personally and as a whole. The questions asked are self-reflective. If in a group, you could read the acknowledgment and question out loud and then give a moment for each group member to quietly reflect and/or journal on their own. As an individual, find space to journal and reflect through these acknowledgments. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess and repent or cry out to your Heavenly Father.

If you are reflecting individually, you can reach out to a Pastor to talk. Email matt@ncchapel.com and he can help set that up.

#1: Acknowledging sexual brokenness helps us see sin rightly.

- *When I look at the posture of my life, the things I think, say, and post, do I posture a life that wants a table that welcomes sinners or a wall that keeps others out?*

#2: Acknowledging sexual brokenness keeps church real.

- *Do I have anyone in my life that I can be 100% honest with my sexual brokenness?*
- *How has my spiritual pride prevented spiritual honesty in others?*

#3: Acknowledging sexual brokenness keeps us humble.

- *What would it look like for God to bring revival to North Canton and for it to start with my sexual brokenness?*

#4: Acknowledging sexual brokenness frees us to be vulnerable.

- *Am I courageous enough to be vulnerable?*
- *What fears/wounds hinder me from vulnerability?*

#5: Acknowledging sexual brokenness makes us courageous

- *Am I offended that God's grace is enough to cover someone who sins differently than me?*
- *Have I asked God to free my heart from contempt for other people? If I haven't, what if I prayed that now?*

#6: Acknowledging sexual brokenness drives us to Jesus.

- *How deeply do I believe I have been forgiven?*
- *How much do I believe I need Jesus today?*
- *Is Jesus Savior of something far off or is Jesus the Lord of my life today?*