

SEX TALKS: *Is Oral Sex...Sex?*

by Rev. Paul Goeke

FROM THE AUTHOR

This study is activity-light and discussion-heavy. The topic alone is engaging enough. This could easily be worthless if there hasn't been a history of a healthy, safe discussion environment within your group. Don't be afraid of laughing... its gonna happen. This is a serious topic, but don't take yourself too seriously. Some levity is okay. Remember to be very frank (without being crass). I have not sought to set this out in a definitive form, but rather have tried to set forth some ideas and bullet points and notes along the way that you can apply to your own style and setting.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Designate 3 areas of the room: a Yes area, No area, and Not Sure area. Tell the youth to go stand in the area that corresponds to their answer to the following questions. Allow them to explain/discuss. These questions are designed to be ambiguous and cause struggle/discussion.

- Do you consider oral sex to be sex?
- Do you have any friends who have had sex with their girlfriend/boyfriend?
- Do you have any friends who have had oral sex with their girlfriend/boyfriend?
- Is oral sex okay if it is with your spouse?
- Is pleasure an okay reason for sex in marriage?

QUESTIONS TO GET SOME BEARINGS

Everyone can sit down and discuss a few more questions that are not yes/no. These questions are designed to explore what sex is, along with its purposes and benefits.

- What are some possible effects of sex? Inside marriage? Outside marriage?
- What are some possible effects of oral sex? Inside marriage? Outside marriage?
- What are some possible effects of “messing around” (*petting, whatever you want to call it*) before marriage?
- Why does it matter if oral sex is sex or not? If oral sex isn't sex, then what?
- What do most people at your school think about oral sex?
- What are some purposes of or reasons for sex? What are some purposes of or reasons for oral sex or any other kind of sexual intimacy?

Take some time to explore the above questions, including an understanding that sex is not simply for procreation, but also for intimacy, relationship, enjoyment, comfort (*II Samuel 12:24*), etc.

Consider this:

If a 30-year-old sees a 7-year-old every day and pats him/her on the shoulder, will there be any long-term psychological issues? (*No.*) But if a 30-year-old sees a 7-year-old every day and touches them on their genitalia (*use whatever word you want*), will there be any long-term psychological issues? (*Yes.*) Why? How is it that touching one part of the body causes such profound, long-lasting psychological issues, but touching another part of the body doesn't? (*The point here is that sex—all kinds of sexual acts including oral sex, petting, etc.—are not just physical/biological/ anatomical, but also, spiritual, emotional, physiological.*)

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Romans 12:1-2.

- How do you offer your body as a living sacrifice?
- What are some things included in worship? How do we worship?
- What does Romans 12:1-2 have to do with oral sex, or sex in general?

Connect this to the above reality that worship, like sex, is physical, spiritual, emotional, physiological. Point out that if we are messing around with sexual intimacy before marriage, we are setting aside worship of God for the worship of sex—or self, or acceptance, etc. Worshipping God is at least in part about living as He wants us to/honoring Him with how we live. (*Be ready to answer the “Where does the Bible say that you can't have sex outside of marriage?” question.*)

You don't necessarily have to ask the following questions, but they are some fairly "in-your-face" things that can be communicated in a way that you see fit through discussion.

- "Offer your body as a living sacrifice." Are you laying down your body on the altar or are you laying down your body in your girlfriend's bed? Sacrificing what is right and good (good for you physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually...and your future spouse).
- Are you sacrificing at the altar of Jesus or the altar of your boyfriend? Are you obeying Jesus or your boyfriend? Are you trying to please Jesus or your boyfriend?

In regards to oral sex issues, young men are often worshipping the god of themselves/their pleasure, and young women are often attracted to the idea of being worshipped/accepted. Model for the youth what finding the "sin behind the sin" looks like - often the surface sin is not the foundational issue.

Another verse for consideration: Romans 1:24-25 (*w/surrounding context*)

- Are you worshipping the Creator or creation?

You are not just struggling with, "Should I have oral sex?" You are struggling with, "Who will I worship as God?"

HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?

"How far is too far?" is a bad question. If you are asking this question, you are probably just asking for permission. The better question is, "How do I honor Jesus?" Can you honestly "mess around" with someone and think, "Yeah, I'm glorifying God."

"The repeated refrain of the Song of Songs is to not awaken love before its time. Therefore, the issue is not where is the line, but when is the time. The Bible knows nothing of sexual contact of any sort or kind before marriage, as sexual pleasure is reserved for the right person, at the right time, in the right way—which is all in the context of heterosexual covenantal marriage. The NIV translation of Ephesians 5:3 says, But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

"In 1 Corinthians 7:1 Paul tells single men that they should not touch any woman in any sexual manner. Also, in 1 Timothy 5:1-2, men are encouraged to treat young women as sisters. Thus, since brothers and sisters can and do talk, serve together, enjoy one another's company, etc., there are acceptable non-sexual ways for single Christians to build their relationship in pursuit of marriage. Lastly, in asking how far one can go, there is sin in the heart because the motive is to get as close to sin as possible rather than getting as close to Jesus as possible. The issue is not where is the line, but rather where is your heart and when is the time. That time is marriage."

(Taken from marshallchurch.org)

Not to mention that the likelihood of you having sex if you are "messaging around" is very high.

SMOKING HOT SEX

Look forward with them to the future amazingness of a healthy sex life in marriage. When a husband and wife have sex (*including oral sex, etc.*), it is great, smoking hot sex, and...totally guilt free. They don't feel guilty afterward. They feel great. And in marriage, it can keep getting better and better. SEX WITHIN MARRIAGE IS A GOOD THING—IT WAS GOD'S IDEA. It honors God and is a way of loving, honoring, serving your spouse. It is imperative that sex IN GENERAL is not communicated to be a bad thing. Sex within marriage honors and glorifies God! (*BTW—it seems that oral sex is at least alluded to, for example, in the Song of Solomon 2:3, 4:16, 7:7*).

Make sure that there is a clear and emphatic time discussing that we offer ourselves as living sacrifices not SO THAT we can be accepted, but BECAUSE we are, due to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Ensure that your youth are assured of forgiveness for their sexual sin (*they've all got it in some form*).

Also, you will do well to emphasize that they cannot do this stuff alone. It is vital that they are working through this with a trusted brother (for young men) or sister (for young women).

Facilitate and encourage them to think about and determine what godly man/woman (respectively) they can be talking to about their struggles. If they are not confessing their sin and working through it with another individual, the secrets will likely overcome and control them. Encourage the practice of regular check-ins in regard to sexual sin.