

Journeys in the Spirit

Young People edition 3 February 2008



Sheet 3.A Respond 'Boundaries game' Cards

(Need one set per group of five)

Being homosexual as long as you don't practice it	Having a group of friends who your partner doesn't meet
Having sex without being in love	Doing things to please your boy/girlfriend
Stop seeing a friend if your boy/girlfriend doesn't like them	Having a relationship with someone of a different religion
Pressurising your partner into having sex	Telling lies to boy/girlfriend if you think the truth might hurt them
Having sex with lots of different people	Having sex before you are married
Having a one night stand when you're in a committed relationship	Being attracted to other people while you are in a relationship
Going out with more than one person at a time	Having sex outside of a committed relationship
Disagreeing with your boy/girlfriend about issues	Having sex with someone 20 years older than you
Having sex with a 15 year old	Keeping a secret from your partner
Wanting time to yourself away from your partner	Trusting your instincts in relationships
Chatting someone up who you know is in a relationship with someone else	Using the Bible to guide your sexual ethics

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Sheet 3.B

Respond Fidelity and relationships

The purpose of this activity is to explore and challenge beliefs and values around fidelity through two quotes. Adult facilitators should think about whether this activity is suitable for the age group. Facilitators should also be aware that it might be necessary to translate the quotes into more appropriate language.

The activity works best in small groups (4 / 5 people with per facilitator). It is useful to have the quotes (sheet C) printed fairly large for each group, but do not put the references on them.

Read aloud Quote 1. Ask for comments and encourage discussion, using the following questions for prompts.

- What do you think the quote is saying?
- How does this quote make you feel?
- Do you agree with this person?
- What do you think this person's partner would say?
- Do you assume the author is male?
- Would you feel the same way if the author is female? (And the partner is female?)
- What about if the author was female and partner male?

When discussion fades and you feel it is appropriate to move on, read Quote 2. Ask for comments and encourage discussion, using the following questions for prompts.

- What do you think that the quote is saying?
- Do you agree with this person?
- Do you think that your feelings around this may change if the friendship spoken about is same sex or opposite sex? If the partners are straight or gay?

General questions to continue discussion.

- Do you think a Quaker wrote these quotes?
- Do your experiences affect your views on being faithful?
- Is there a particular view in society that makes it easier or harder to be faithful?

After this general discussion you could ask people in pairs to construct their own 'fidelity quotes'. These could be written in any way that they like, for example in text speak. These quotes could be stuck up and displayed around the room for all to browse and read.

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Sheet 3.C Respond 'Fidelity and relationships' quotes

Need one set per group of five

Fidelity quote 1

What is it that makes me feel committed to my primary partner? And what happens if she doesn't think or feel I'm committed to her? She says that, for her, commitment has to include 'faithfulness', i.e. for us to be monogamous, and probably a more definite time commitment so that we'd see each other more often. For me, my commitment to her is about the way I love her, that I'm honest with her. Yes, I have other lovers / sexual partners. I think my relationship with them enhances, rather than disrupts, my relationship with her. My commitment is in the way and frequency with which I think about her, in the fact that all my other lovers know that my main relationship is with her.

Fidelity quote 2

Unfaithfulness is not necessarily physical. There is a kind of mental or spiritual adultery which can damage all three people concerned. Hard as it is to forgive physical unfaithfulness, it is equally hard, and sometimes harder, to forgive an apparently innocent friendship between one partner and a third person if it creates a sense of exclusion and deprivation, and destroys the confidence, respect and affection promised in marriage.

References:

Quote 1 – J11 Who do we think we are? Young Friend's General Meeting Swarthmore Lecture
Quote 2 - Quaker Faith and Practice 22.49, taken from Towards a Quaker view of sex, 1964

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Sheet 3.D Respond

Masculinity and Femininity Collage

Raid the recycling cupboard! You will need lots of magazines and newspapers. You may want to ask every participant to bring a bagful. You will also need scissors, glue and a large piece of paper (or an old poster that you could use the back of) for each group. In small groups (no more than 8) use the newspapers and magazines to make a poster collage exploring a concept, e.g.

- Masculinity
- Femininity
- Love and sex
- Heterosexuality and homosexuality

If possible, allow up to an hour for this activity to enable people to really think about it, and look through the magazines. Once people have finished their poster, ask each group to present it to the others. Discuss any similarities and differences. How did people find doing the activity? How would they have done it if they hadn't been limited to using the media?

Exploring views of sex and morality

The aim of this activity is to help people to recognise the range of views about the morality of sexual activity. You will need a set of cards for every group (Sheets E & F). Divide the group into groups of five. Ask them to sort the cards into categories, depending on whether they think it is a religious or non-religious view, and whether they agree or disagree with it. Encourage the group to discuss the cards and why they have made the decisions.

Agree

Disagree

Non - religious

Religious

Sources

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sikh | Adi Granth 274 |
| 2. Islam | Qu'ran |
| 3. Secular | Billy Crystal |
| 4. Catholic | Persona Humena |
| 5. Christian | Corinthians |
| 6. Judaism / Christian | Song of Solomon |
| 7. Hindu | Moral Issues in Six Religions |
| 8. Secular | Oscar Hammerstein II |
| 9. Buddhist | Rev Diashin Morgan |
| 10. Quaker | Towards a Quaker View of Sex |

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 11. Judaism / Christian | Leviticus |
| 12. Islam | Qu'ran |
| 13. Judaism / Christian | Leviticus |
| 14. Christian | Romans |
| 15. Quaker | Faith and Practice 1960 |
| 16. Quaker | Faith and Practice 2006 |
| 17. Judaism / Christian | Exodus |
| 18. Quaker | Faith and Practice 2006 |
| 19. Quaker | Faith and Practice 2006 |
| 20. Quaker | Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 2006 |

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Sheet 3.E Respond 'Exploring views of sex and morality' Cards

You need one complete set per group of five

Do not cast your eyes on the beauty of another's wife

1

*Your lips covered me with kisses
Your love is better than wine
No woman could help loving you*

6

When a husband and wife share intimacy it is rewarded with a blessing... just as they would be punished if they engaged in illicit sex.

2

Every human being has male and female characteristics in their personality. The dominant traits determine a person's sexuality either masculine or feminine. Sexuality is expressed through behaviour, the sexual drive, clothes, food, drink, etc. Scriptures and society approve only of sex within marriage.

7

Women need a reason to have sex. Men just need a place!

3

Do you love me because I am beautiful, or am I beautiful because you love me?

8

The sexual act must be within the framework of marriage.

4

When you are a slave of your senses you cannot know what love really is. If you only use other people as a means of satisfying your own desires, then you can never really know them for who they are.

9

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

5

It is the nature and quality of a relationship that matters: one must not judge it by its outward appearance but by its inner worth. Homosexual affection can be as selfless as heterosexual affection, and therefore we cannot see that it is in some way morally worse.

10

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Sheet 3.F

Respond 'Exploring views of sex and morality' Cards continued

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable.

11

The woman and the man guilty of adultery or fornication flog each of them with a hundred stripes.

12

Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery.

13

Let us behave decently, as in daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery.

14

The unworthy appeal to sexual instincts for commercial gain in entertainment pornographic literature and advertising is a stumbling block to the spiritual progress of the individual and a source of corroding weakness in the nation as a whole.

15

Our sexuality is an integral part of our being human, giving warmth and power to all our loving. Yet it is difficult for us to love both fully and wisely; too easy often to be niggardly and cautious in giving of ourselves, or grasping and selfish in satisfying our desires. These failures will lead to stress and conflict; but painful as they are, such experiences can still be a means of growth in understanding and an eventual strengthening of a relationship.

16

You shall not commit adultery

17

Sexual activity is essentially neither good nor evil; it is a normal biological activity which, like most other human activities, can be indulged in destructively or creatively.

18

No relationship can be a right one which makes use of another person through selfish desire.

19

Celibate in singleness, faithful in marriage has proven consonant with the divine will; sexual activity, whether or not it includes intercourse, is never without consequence.

20