

CLER MINISTRIES

BIBLICALLY-BASED SEXUALITY EDUCATION

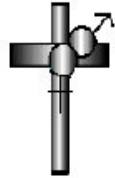


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Congregational Education



Non-Profit Corporation

2008

TO: Parents of "Created To Be Me" campers

FROM: Rev. Linda and Richard Goddard, Keynote and Workshop Leaders

We want to thank you for enrolling your youth in a one-of-a-kind church camping experience. In 1988 the Central Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest Region asked Linda, a Christian Sexuality Education Minister, to design a camp for eighth grade youth who would be entering high school in the fall. This camp, "Created To Be Me" was originally known as "Eighter's." Linda designed the camp with the keynote theme of "Spirituality and Sexuality – The Dynamic Duo" and this program is now presented to youth in every Area of the Southwest Region, North Carolina, Tennessee, Great River, Kentucky, Indiana Region, and to Presbyterian youth at Camp Cedarkirk in Tampa, Florida.

Because of the subject matter, it is felt by the keynoter and workshop leaders that parents should be informed as to the context of the keynotes, the purpose and objectives for this camp, and the extent of sexuality information that will be imparted to their youth.

Included in this letter you will find the Purpose and Objectives for this sexuality camp, along with an overview of the keynote and workshop presentations. The keynotes and workshops afford us an opportunity to give in-depth presentations on the subjects of God's plan for sexual intimacy, dating, and accountability, all from a spiritual perspective. A spiritual keynote dealing with the humanity of Jesus and Jesus as a role model, will be delivered every day, with workshops each evening that will cover the reproductive anatomy, menstruation, conception, sexual intercourse, sexually transmitted infections, HIV-AIDS, contraception, dating, abstinence, love and marriage.

We have found that the major concern most parents initially have about the workshops is the presentation about contraception. This apprehension is understandable, as most of us have been led to believe that a contraceptive discussion sends a double message when we are telling our youth that God intends them to be abstinent until marriage. The problem that we encountered when we began teaching youth was that youth already "knew" about contraception, they just did not "know the truth" about it. It was heartbreaking to hear the "methods" that uneducated youth resorted to in trying to prevent pregnancy. We came to believe that the issue of abortion would never go away until unwanted pregnancies were reduced. That will not happen until sexually active youth properly use contraceptives when they are having sexual intercourse. Our presentation also imparts an understanding of how contraceptives work within a marriage to assist in family planning.

The workshops are built around the theme that God has designed sexual intimacy to be a powerful and wonderful gift to be opened and enjoyed in a committed marital relationship. Any use of the gift outside of marriage is filled with risks and consequences and we endeavor to make youth very aware of all of the risks and consequences. Youth will participate in loving and moving worship services each evening that will reinforce the theme of the keynotes.

If, after having read this letter and the enclosed material, you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail Rev. Linda Goddard at clermin@aol.com. She would love to visit with you and, hopefully, help you better understand what we are trying to accomplish.

In closing, we want to tell you how fortunate we believe your young person is to be able to come together for a week to explore this subject from a loving and Christian perspective. Youth and staff leave this camp having learned a great deal about themselves, others, and most importantly, how our loving God wants this wonderful gift of sexual intimacy to be enjoyed by us in a committed, loving marital relationship. We ask that you hold all of us in your prayers the week of camp.

PURPOSE

To provide soon-to-be high school youth with factual and spiritual sexuality information that will help them view sexual intimacy as a gift from God intended for the marriage relationship. To enlighten youth to the dangers, risks, and consequences that can occur when God's gift of sexual intimacy is used outside of marriage.

OBJECTIVES

To impart factual information about the human reproductive anatomies.

To provide accurate information about puberty, menstruation, conception, contraceptives, and sexually transmitted infections-HIV/AIDS.

To enable youth to recognize "dating pitfalls," controlling and/or violent dating relationships, and peer pressure to be sexually active.

To help youth learn to value the uniqueness of being male or female and to learn to appreciate the differences.

To give youth the opportunity to think through and ask questions about sexuality issues, abstinence, dating and love relationships, in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

To present a loving and forgiving God that has a plan for each of their lives, and to help youth see Jesus as their "role model" for living full, healthy, and exciting lives.

**“SPIRITUALITY AND SEXUALITY-
THE DYNAMIC DUO”**
OVERVIEW OF KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

SUNDAY EVENING
“RETURN TO EDEN”

Scriptural Focus:
Genesis 1:26-31, 2:18-25, Genesis 3

Keynoter brings the Genesis scriptures to life by “imagining” what it was like in the beginning for these first two human creations of God. What it really meant to be “naked and unashamed” and “to be fruitful and multiply”. We look at the equal dominion in the garden and then we move to the fall and the consequences that were suffered as a result of making the wrong decision - choosing their way instead of God’s. Decisions made by youth today “going their own way” are shared and youth are encouraged to look to God for guidance and to understand that God is in their blessings and in their consequences - God always has a plan!

MONDAY MORNING
“ADOLESCENCE - JESUS LEADS THE WAY”

Scriptural Focus:
Luke 1:26-38, 2:8-14, 41-52

This keynote sets the stage for looking at the humanity of Jesus so youth can begin to understand that he experienced some of the same things they will be dealing with. We begin by looking at a teenage Mary discovering she is pregnant with the Messiah. How would a teenage girl react to such news? Parents? Joseph? Why did God choose someone so young? The birth of Jesus and God’s “birth announcement.” What was it like for Mary and Joseph to know they would be raising God’s son. Those special and important scriptures of Jesus as an adolescent are looked at with the purpose of helping youth to begin to see Jesus as their role model – one who experienced some of the same changes and dilemmas they are experiencing. The keynote stresses God has a special purpose for each of our lives if we will listen for God’s voice and look for guidance.

Monday Evening Workshop
“The Marvelous Male”

This workshop takes youth through the wonders of being the “marvelous male” by studying the male reproductive anatomy, puberty changes, and sexual response.

TUESDAY MORNING
“WDJD - WHAT DID JESUS DO?”

Scriptural Focus:
Mark 5:21-34; Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 25:31-40

It is impossible to be a disciple if one does not know what Jesus actually did while he was here with us. Stories of Jesus' relationship with women, the Pharisees, the sick and oppressed, and the disciples are explored. Jesus' love for mankind and his acceptance of the outcasts of the world are major themes in this keynote. The power of youth to make a difference in the lives of other youth is also part of this presentation.

Tuesday Evening Workshop
“The Fabulous Female”

An in-depth look at the “Fabulous Female,” the reproductive anatomy, puberty changes, and female pride issues. Presentation is made on how God's gift of sexual intimacy is to be enjoyed and how conception, multiple births, etc. occur.

WEDNESDAY MORNING
**“THE DATING GAME -
MAKING FRIENDS OR MAKING OUT”**

I Corinthians 3:16-20

This keynote explores dating situations and looks at dating pitfalls:

- 1) Dating too young
- 2) One-on-one dating before sixteen
- 3) High school youth dating junior high youth
- 4) Forsaking friendships for romantic relationships
- 5) Spending too much time together alone
- 6) Drinking and dating - Dangerous combination
- 7) Date rape or abuse - Violent or controlling relationships

Wednesday Evening Workshop
“The Cost of Being Sexually Active – Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)”
“The Facts about Contraceptives”

An in-depth presentation of most common sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Symptoms, cures, and methods of transmission will be discussed, along with true-life stories of people who have contracted these infections and how it has impacted their lives.

This workshop will give youth an understanding of the concept of contraceptives and how they are utilized in marriage to help couples plan when they have children and how many. The complexity of each method is looked at along with the statistical information as to its effectiveness. Side effects are discussed and youth are lead to understand that there are no contraceptives on the market that are free from risk of pregnancy or infection.

THURSDAY MORNING
“SEXUAL INTIMACY, THE GIFT WORTH WAITING FOR”
John 8:1-11

Through personal sharing, Keynoter helps youth understand the emotional pain and scarring that can sometimes occur when the gift of sexual intimacy is used outside of marriage. God's forgiveness and renewal are emphasized throughout this session.

THURSDAY EVENING
“Degree of Arousal – How far is too far?”

Workshop presentation on Degree of Arousal helps youth understand the power of arousal and the importance of “drawing their line” before they are in a serious relationship so that they do not compromise their self-esteem or their relationship with God.

FRIDAY MORNING
“THE DYNAMIC DUO - JESUS AND YOU!”
John 13:1-17
Matthew 26:26-29 and Matthew 27:32-46

We will take an in-depth look at the last few days in the life of Jesus. What were Jesus' thoughts as they entered Jerusalem and began preparations for his last moments together? We will look at his modeling of servant hood and talk about Jesus' leaving this life the same way he had lived his life, showing God's unconditional love for all of us.

This keynote will close with the promise that the exciting and rich journey that the disciples walked with Jesus is now ours to walk. That same Jesus is still breaking into our lives and calling us to follow. As we take communion together we will take it as a family of friends, just like the disciples did, remembering our Savior in total, his humanness and his Godliness.