

## TOTAL REVOLUTION of VALUES

### Session #1 - From Lust to Love

**Session Objective:** The use of the term love is so widely used that it's true meaning and power has become diluted. On the other hand, the influence and control of lust continues to grow. This session will:

- Define lust as self-focused, consumption-based and unfulfilling
- Define biblical love as other-focused, protecting, providing and fulfilling
- Challenge students to value people with a biblical love in all relationships

#### Extended Prep:

- Make or borrow a plaque with the words to 1Corinthians 13:4-7
- In the movie, "**Independence Day**", there is a clip where the President enters a secret room and has a 'mind meld' with the alien (housed in liquid gel). The President discovers that the alien's goal is to consume humans. This consumption theme relates directly to the consumption characteristic of lust.

### Session Outline

#### Leader Preamble:

*The Bible contains some of life's highest ideals and best examples while also recording humanity at it's worst. Today, we are going to start with the best and then contrast with one of the worst episodes in the Bible. Starting with the best, 1Corinthians 13:4-7 is an inspiring passage about love that is regularly read at weddings. Here it is...*

*"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 protects, always trust, always hopes, always perseveres."*

*With that description of love in mind, we are going to head to a difficult passage. Read 2Samuel 13:1-22 (**Leader's Note:** Appropriate caution should be used if the issue of rape/sexual assault is sensitive to individuals in your group.)*

#### Small Group Questions:

1. Verse 1 states that Amnon 'fell in love with Tamar'. Was it really love? What word would you use to describe the root of Amnon's actions?

*Options: Evil, lust, etc.*

**2. “Lust” is one word that could describe the root of Amnon’s actions. In our culture, we might relate the word “lust” just to pornography, but it is more than that. How did Amnon’s actions meet the definition of lust?**

*Examples:*

- *v.2 frustrated to point of illness (consuming impatience),*
- *v.2 ‘do anything to her’ is about self-gratification not building other, scheme was self-seeking, evil and deceitful (contrary to truth),*
- *v. 12-14 did not protect or show kindness,*
- *v. 15-18 hate led to anger and revealed guilt, lack of fulfillment, etc.*

**Leader Say:** Amnon’s actions were based on lust. Clearly, he was self-focused, he didn’t value Tamar – he just wanted to consume her, and his actions didn’t weren’t fulfilling – instead, they left him empty and angry. As well, Tamar was left used, deeply hurt and tarnished.

**3. How does ‘lust’ measure up to the description of love? When you look back to 1Corinthians 13, which parts are similar? Which are opposites?**

**Leader Note:** You could use a whiteboard or butcher paper to re-write 1Corinthians 13 – replacing the love concepts with lust concepts. Example:

*Going through the 1Corinthians list with Amnon’s actions produces a new list:*

*Lust is impatient or instant.*

*Lust doesn’t care about kindness as long as the need is met.*

*Lust wants to consume, so it envies.*

*Lust is very self-seeking.*

*Lust is easily frustrated which leads to anger.*

*Lust doesn’t care about truth.*

*Lust doesn’t protect, trust, hope or persevere – it’s about instant gratification, possession and consumption.*

**Leader Say:** With our two lists – the first one from 1 Corinthians 13 and this new list based on lust, we see the contrast between biblical love and lust or worldly love. We see that lust or worldly love goes beyond pornography. The principles behind worldly love can impact all relationships.

**Leader Say:** In a moment we are going to try to apply all of this to guy-girl relationships and what they could look like with biblical love. So, keeping that in mind, let's look at *one of the key passages on biblical love for relationships found in Ephesians 5:25-33. Although it's based on the marriage relationship, the principles can be applied to dating and other relationships too – especially if you will one day marry someone you date.*

Read Ephesians 5:25-33

**4. In Ephesians 5:25-33, what relationship principles do you find from Christ's example?**

**Leader Note:** Bring in the following points as needed:

- V. 25 – Christ's selflessness and sacrifice ('gave himself up for her')
- V. 26-7 – Christ's goal: "to make her holy..."
- In v. 29, the words, "he feeds and cares for it" mean PROVIDE and PROTECT

**5. Application: Is a guy-girl relationship that models biblical love (not worldly love) possible? If so, what would it look like? (i.e. emotionally, sexually, etc).**

**Leader Note:** See where the discussion from this question leads and seek to apply the principles from question #4 – selflessness, sacrifice, goal of holiness, providing and protecting.

**6 Application: Can you think of two relationships where you can express biblical love this week? How will you seek to do it?**

- Biblical love is counter to worldly love. Biblical love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Therefore, we need to depend on and submit to the Holy Spirit's supernatural power and leading.

**Prayer Options:** In our culture of self-focused, consuming and unfulfilling worldly love, a time of silent confession may be appropriate.

### Comments and Feedback

**Leader Note:** This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

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Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.