

DATING WITH PURE PASSION



by Rob Eagar

DVD Study Kit Leader's Guide

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This Leader's Guide is a companion to

Dating with Pure Passion
DVD Study Kit

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This DVD Study Kit contains DVD-R discs.

Over 93% of DVD video players are compatible with DVD-R discs. However, before you start, please make sure that your equipment is not the exception.

How to Use this Leader's Guide with a Small Group

<u>Leaders Guide Components:</u>	<u>Study Guide Components:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Session Preparation Ideas• Lesson Kickoff Question• Video Introduction Paragraph• Video Notes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scripture references- Answers to fill-in-the-blank Statements• Personal Questions to Consider• Small Group Discussion Questions with answers provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson Kickoff Question• Video Introduction Paragraph• Video Notes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scripture references- Key fill-in-the-blank statements• Personal Questions to Consider• Space to write responses to God's teaching• Small Group Discussion Questions

The *Dating with Pure Passion* DVD Study is designed to show the application of Christ's love and power to specific issues that singles and young adults face. The goals of this study are threefold:

- 1) Create a deeper walk with Christ through relevant teaching.
- 2) Provide practical instruction to building better relationships.
- 3) Generate community for group members through fellowship and interaction.

This Leader's Guide is sent in a PDF format to provide users with continual updates and electronic delivery. The curriculum consists of eight sessions that accompany the *Dating with Pure Passion* DVD study. Each lesson is designed to fit within a 45 – 60 minute time frame. This Leaders Guide follows the layout of the Study Guide and provides extra content, such as preparation ideas, answers to the video notes, and group discussion questions.

Text in this Leaders Guide which appears in the **Times New Roman font** is meant for the Leader's use only. Text in the Leaders Guide that appears in the **Arial font** denotes content for both the Leader and Students.

To conduct each session, we recommend the following plan:

Leaders Preparation for Group Meetings:

- 1) Ensure that the DVD-R discs will properly play in the equipment at your group's location.
- 2) Preview each 20 – 35 minute video session, along with the notes and discussion questions.
- 3) Read the Session Preparation Ideas and gather any necessary materials or visual aids suggested.
- 4) Read the recommended pages in Rob Eagar's book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.
- 5) Spend time in prayer for your group members and your time together.

Suggested Schedule with allotted times:

OPENING	(5 – 10 minutes)	Start with prayer, then initiate the group Kickoff Question.
VIDEO	(20 – 35 minutes)	Read the Video Introduction paragraph and play the DVD video.
DISCUSSION	(15 – 20 minutes)	After the video, discuss the Small Group Discussion Questions.
CLOSING	(5 – 10 minutes)	Close with prayer, and promote next week's lesson.

Tips for Leaders to Enhance Your Group Study:

- 1) Prepare for each study at least 2 – 3 days ahead of time.
- 2) As the Leader, try not talk too much or you might prevent your group from sharing their comments.
- 3) Do not be afraid of silence. Encourage your group to actively participate, and wait for them to respond.
- 4) Do not allow one person to monopolize the discussion. If this occurs, ask that person to let others talk.
- 5) Keep your group's discussion on the topic at hand. Politely, but firmly, avoid going off on tangents.
- 6) Ask group members to avoid disparaging remarks about others, such as an ex-boyfriend or girlfriend.
- 7) Don't just read out the answers to the Group Discussion Questions from this Leaders Guide. Share your own insights and experiences. The answers are meant to help you cover the bases, but not quote verbatim.
- 8) If a group member reveals unhealthy behavior or a personal struggle beyond your training, be sure to have someone ready in advance to contact, such as a church pastor or local Christian counselor.



DVD Session Titles:

Session 1

Discovering the Longing of Your Heart
(Video run time – 19:41)

Session 2

Discovering Real Passion (30:30)

Session 3

Determining the Best Person to Date (29:55)

Session 4

Learning to Discern Character (33:50)

Session 5

Appreciating Sexual Desire (21:48)

Session 6

Resisting Sexual Temptation (23:41)

Session 7

Recognizing God's Role in Your Social Life (26:19)

Session 8

Realizing Your Role in Your Social Life (28:12)

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Leaders Guide – Session #1 Discovering the Longing of Your Heart

Session Preparation Ideas

The focus for this session is to reveal how our society idolizes romantic passion. Yet, romance is limited and cannot give our heart what it really needs. During the video, Rob Eagar will demonstrate this point by using a giant chocolate candy bar. You can help your group experience Rob's illustration by purchasing chocolate candy bars before your meeting. Then, hand them out as a surprise during your small group discussion time!

As additional preparation for this session, read pages 7 – 14 in Rob's book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Ask each group member to tell who their favorite TV or movie couple is and why.
(Use this question to help your group think about what kind of couples they are admiring.)

Video Introduction (Video runtime – 19:41)

(Read aloud to your group) Each one of us was created with a heart that desperately needs love. Yet, our society claims that the best way to fulfill our hungry hearts is through romantic passion. In other words, find that perfect emotional or sexual relationship, then you will find your "happily ever after." Is this popular notion really true? In this session, Rob Eagar shares how his personal pursuit of romance led him to a life-changing realization.

Answers to Video Notes

Our society says the best way to satisfy your heart is through romantic passion.

A man wants to be loved as a hero. A woman feels loved when the hero wants her.

Why is relational heartache common among Christians? We try to fulfill our hearts with something that cannot satisfy.

The Problem with Romantic Passion:
Human love is like chocolate.

Romantic Passion is always temporary.

Romantic Passion is also always performance-based.

What we all want is to be unconditionally accepted.

What did you hear from God during this session?

(Encourage your group to take a moment to fill-out this section of their Study Guide before you begin asking the Group Discussion Questions.)

Leaders Guide – Session #1

Discovering the Longing of Your Heart

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) Discuss how movies, television, or music has shaped your ideas about romance. Give specific examples.

Movie Examples: Hitch; Sleepless in Seattle; Top Gun; When Harry Met Sally; Pretty Woman; Father of the Bride

TV Examples: Seinfeld; Friends; Sex & the City

Song Examples: Whitney Houston – “I Will Always Love You;” Vince Gill – “I Still Believe in You and Me”

Ask your group to consider how our media industry rarely portrays a realistic example of relationships. Most movies depict the emotional high of falling in love, sexual attraction, and a “happily ever after,” without showing the reality of everyday life. Ironically, many of the actors and musicians who promote the romantic ideal cannot keep their own relationships together.

2) What is the common problem between a chocolate sugar high and a romantic, emotional high?

(Walk your group back through Rob’s chocolate candy illustration.)

Eating chocolate on an empty stomach:

1. Our stomachs constantly need food.
2. Eating chocolate can give us a sugar high.
3. But, candy can’t give us what we need to live.
4. So, the sugar high ends and hunger returns.
5. Yet, if all we eat is chocolate, our bodies won’t get the proper nutrients we need to survive.

Consuming love with an empty heart:

1. Our hearts have a constant need for love.
2. Romantic passion can give us an emotional high.
3. But, the bliss of romance is limited and short-lived.
4. When happiness fades, we break up and search again.
5. Yet, if all we consume is romance, our hearts won’t get the kind of unconditional love we need to survive.

3) Since romantic passion is temporary, list some ways that couples perform for each other early in their relationship which later stop.

Some examples of what men stop doing:

- Hold doors open for the woman
- Plan creative date activities
- Go shopping together

Some examples of what women stop doing:

- Dress up
- Work out / watch their weight
- Show an interest in sports

Why do couples act like this? Because we want to put our best foot forward and impress someone else in hopes that they will accept us. In essence, we are faking our true self, but it cannot last forever.

4) In this video lesson, Rob mentioned how prayer and reading the Bible helped him recover from relational pain. Two of his favorite verses are Isaiah 41:10 and John 14:27. Read these verses aloud and discuss how God’s word offers healing during heartache or trying times. Suggest any other verses that have personally encouraged you.

- **Isaiah 41:10** – Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.
- **John 14:27** – Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- (a classic example) **Jeremiah 29:11** – “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

All too often, we try to numb the pain of distressful circumstances through alcohol, sex, overworking, or overeating. Yet, Jesus said in John 8:32, “the truth shall make you free.” Therefore, when we take time to concentrate on the biblical truth of God’s love and care for us, healing and peace is a natural by-product.

DATING WITH PURE PASSION



Leaders Guide – Session #2 Discovering Real Passion

Session Preparation Ideas

Before your meeting, grab a couple of dictionaries and look up the word “passion.” Each dictionary, including secular versions, should offer a definition similar to “the sufferings of Christ on the cross.” Bring these dictionaries with you and show them during the discussion time. This is a great way to emphasize how even our secular culture attributes real passion to the actions of our Lord Jesus Christ. As additional preparation for this lesson, read pages 15 – 21 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Ask each group member to express what ideas come to mind when he or she hears the word “passion”? (Use this question to reveal how our culture has “watered-down” our understanding of the word.)

Video Introduction (Video Runtime – 30:30)

In the previous lesson, Rob shared his tragic story and explained why human love is like chocolate. Relationships can make you feel good, but romantic passion is always temporary and performance-based. The emotional high never lasts. In this lesson, Rob explains how a new type of passion is waiting to satisfy your heart.

Answers to Video Notes

The 3 Elements of Real Passion:

Hebrews 12:2 – Fix your eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Element #1: Real Passion loves me initially.

1 John 4:19 – We love, because He first loved us.

Titus 3:4-5 – But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy.

Element #2: Real Passion loves me specifically.

Luke 12:6-7 – What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid; you are more valuable to Him than a whole flock of sparrows.

Element #3: Real Passion loves me sacrificially.

Ephesians 5:2 – And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – God made Jesus who knew no sin, to become sin our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus Christ loves me: initially, specifically, and sacrificially.

Questions to Consider

1. Do I base my self-esteem on whether or not I have a boyfriend or girlfriend?
2. Do I feel like I have to get married someday in order to be happy?
3. Do I really believe that Jesus Christ loves me unconditionally, even when I sin?

Leaders Guide – Session #2

Discovering Real Passion

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) What substitutes does Satan offer to pull us away from the real passion of Jesus Christ?

Examples: • Wealth • Power • Fame • Romance • Sex • Security • Self-importance • Busyness

Make clear to your group how Satan will try anything to prevent us from becoming dependent on God. Some substitutes can even look good on the surface, such as church work, volunteering, or donating money. However, Romans 14:23 reminds us that “whatever is not from faith is sin.” In other words, sin is acting apart from dependency upon Christ.

2) In Titus 3:5, the Apostle Paul wrote, “He (Jesus) saved us, not on the basis on deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy”. Why is this statement so important?

This verse proves that God loves us unconditionally. Our relationship with Him is not based on the fear of having to perform perfectly. Instead, we get to enjoy freedom and rest from our lack of performance because of His grace! Below are additional verses that discuss how there’s nothing we can do to make God love us any more or any less.

Romans 5:8 – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Timothy 1:9 – (God)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

3) Have each group member share one experience from their life where they witnessed sacrificial love.

Examples might include:

1. Watching parents sacrifice financially so their child could get a college education.
2. Volunteering to help the less fortunate, such as Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters, etc.
3. Caring for a family member who is ill or has cancer.

4) Discuss which of the three elements of real passion mean the most to you. Why are all three elements important?

Remind your group that there is no wrong answer to this question. The goal is to share what struck them the most while listening to the video lesson.

Real Passion (Jesus) loves us: 1) initially 2) specifically 3) sacrificially.

Each of these 3 elements originates from a source that will never change - Christ. Real passion is not based on passing emotion, but on Christ’s decision and desire to sacrifice Himself for us. And, without His love for us, it would be impossible for us to love another person. As Rob said, “We cannot love another person romantically until we first understand how passionately Christ loves us.”



Leaders Guide – Session #3

Determining the Best Person to Date

Session Preparation Ideas

In this session, Rob explains how our favorite flavor of ice cream illustrates the truth that we are all considered a favorite to God. Help your group grasp this truth by hosting an ice cream social after your meeting and let each member choose their preferred flavor or toppings. Or, go to an ice cream shop and let everyone enjoy their favorite flavor. For further study on the topics in this session, read pages 63 – 72 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Find out which group member has the funniest blind date story.
(This question is meant to share the humor and frustration of finding quality people to date.)

Video Introduction

The quality of a dating relationship is determined by the quality of the two people involved. Therefore, one of the toughest decisions you face as a single adult is choosing whom you date. A poor choice could have lasting consequences, or a wise decision could reap lifelong benefits. In this session, Rob reveals how the love of Jesus Christ offers practical and spiritual insight into this dating dilemma.

Answers to Video Notes

Just because someone looks attractive or professes to be a Christian does not make them a good marriage partner.

Write down four key qualities that you desire in a mate.

-
-
-
-

Pursue someone who attracts you specifically, but is willing to love you sacrificially.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

As a Christian, you can trust your heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 – I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.

Ephesians 3:17 – Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

In Ephesians 5, God calls men to initiate a relationship.

What did you hear from God during this session?

Leaders Guide – Session #3

Determining the Best Person to Date

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) Why does someone who claims to be a Christian not necessarily mean that he or she would make a good dating partner?

1) Remind your group how it's possible for people to engage in Christian activities, such as singing, tithing, or serving, without ever surrendering their heart to Christ. Some non-Christians attend church for social reasons or simply because they want to feel better about themselves.

2) Just because someone is a Christian does not mean that they are healthy and ready to date. Some Christian singles carry scars from past rejection, abuse, or misguided expectations. These individuals may need time to heal and mature before they are ready to love sacrificially.

3) Even though someone you meet may be a Christian that does not make him or her automatically compatible with your personality, direction in life, and personal interests. These issues must be considered before intimacy can form.

2) Read Luke 12:6–7 and Psalms 139:17–18, then discuss how these verses reveal Christ's specific attraction towards us.

Read these verses and discuss how God knows everything about us – from our physical attributes to our inner struggles and thoughts. More importantly, these verses state that we have amazing value in His eyes. Psalms 139:17–18 even says that His thoughts about us outnumber the grains of sand.

Add this interesting note: Mathematicians once calculated the grains of sand on a beach and proposed that the verses in Psalms 139:17–18 suggest that God thinks about each one of us over 6,000,000 times per second!

3) Discuss why we are often afraid to trust our heart or inner preferences.

As Rob mentioned in the video, some of us were taught that our hearts are wicked from people who referred to Old Testament verses, such as Jeremiah 17:9. However, after Jesus died and rose again, God instituted a New Covenant with us, whereby Christ would cleanse our hearts through faith and take residence within us (refer back to Ezekiel 36:26 and Ephesians 3:17). Here's another verse to share with your group that supports this truth:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Our people struggle to follow their inner preferences because they confuse trusting their heart with reckless emotionalism or putting faith in fleeting feelings. Emphasize that trusting Christ in our heart has little to do with emotions. Rather, Christ guides our heart in a way that lines up with God's word and provides peace in the midst of chaos.

4) Read Ephesians 5:23, 25. According to these verses, why does God want men to take the initiative in a dating relationship?

Be prepared for lively interaction on this topic, but keep the discussion focused God's word rather than personal opinion.

Ephesians 5:23, 25 – For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

God designated men to take the leadership role in a relationship – just like Christ took the lead towards the church. Bear in mind, however, that the position of “leader” does not mean “dictator or decision-maker.” Instead, God's definition of a leader is “lead sacrificer” or the willingness to be vulnerable and give first – just like Christ did to us.

Most women long to be in a relationship where the man looks out for her needs more than his own. Yet, if a man won't sacrificially initiate in dating, he usually won't sacrifice in marriage, leaving the burden to the woman.

Why do many men hesitate to initiate? Generally, they're afraid of rejection or feeling inadequate. However, remind the men in your group that their identity is not based on the changing approval of women, but in the constant security of Christ's love.

DATING WITH PURE PASSION



Session #4 – Choose Your Passion Learning to Discern Character

Session Preparation Ideas

Help your group grasp the concept of God’s sacrificial love by combining the truths of 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 and 1 John 4:16. For example, write out the well-known phrases from 1 Corinthians 13, such as “Love is patient; Love is kind, etc.” Then, consider if you always love others this way. Next, read the truth of 1 John 4:16, which states “God is love.” Using this truth, rewrite the phrases of 1 Cor. 13:4–8 with a personal twist, such as “God is always patient with me; God is always kind towards me...” Discuss how these phrases change your view of God. For more study on the topics in this session, read pages 72–80 and 173–180 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Have each group member reveal what they learned about love from their first boyfriend or girlfriend. (This question is meant to uncover some of the early experiences that shaped our ideas of romance.)

Video Introduction

In the previous lesson, Rob revealed how pursuing a person who specifically attracts you illustrates the unique fascination that Jesus Christ feels for you. However, outward qualities alone cannot keep a relationship together. Couples need more than just an outward attraction to stay together. In this session, Rob explains the key ingredient that is essential to building a passionate relationship.

Video Notes

Specific Attraction can bring two people together, but only sacrifice can keep them together.

Ephesians 5:25 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

Romans 5:8 – God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

The definition of Marriage is a commitment to an imperfect person for their highest good.

7 Ways to Examine the Character of Your Date:

1. Does my date allow our relationship to progress naturally?
2. Does my date dress in a way that doesn’t tempt the opposite sex to lust?
3. Is my date able to forgive people when they make mistakes or act rudely?
4. Is my date overly self-conscious about what people think of him or her?
5. Can my date abstain from sex - even if other people encourage the issue?
6. Does my date talk too much about himself, or ask questions about me?
7. Does my date show generosity with time and money to those in need?

Character can only be determined over time.

John 15:5 – I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him will bear much fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.); for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 Corinthians 2:16 – Who can know what the Lord is thinking? We can understand; we have the mind of Christ.

Do not ask Jesus to give you more patience. Instead, ask Him to give you His patience.

Questions to Consider

1. Are you willing to pursue a passionate romance than settle for companionship or security?
2. Will you yield to Christ and love someone else sacrificially?
3. If you’re dating, is sacrificial love absent in your relationship or one-sided?

What did you hear from God during this session?

Leaders Guide – Session #4

Learning to Discern Character

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) What is the “true” definition of Marriage? How does this compare to the world’s definition of marriage?

Encourage your group to honestly express what motivates them (or their friends) to pursue marriage. Listen for comments that might reveal a self-absorbed mindset, such as:

- I’m just tired of being lonely.
- I really want a family someday.
- I need someone to help meet my physical, financial, or emotional needs.
- I want someone to complete me.

Contrast any of these comments with Rob’s definition of marriage – “a commitment to an imperfect person for their highest good.” While, there’s nothing wrong with wanting a spouse or children, remind your group that a marriage cannot flourish when people enter it for selfish reasons.

2) Discuss why it’s impossible for humans to love sacrificially. Why is Jesus Christ our only source of hope?

As imperfect humans, we have a limited source of love within us. All human love is temporary, because it is based on performance. Use the following verses to explain why Christ defines real and our only source of hope.

1 John 4:7-10 – Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

3) Come up with three ways that sacrificial love could be exhibited in a dating relationship.

Let your group answer first. Then, feel free to offer more examples of sacrificial love, such as:

1. Asking questions about the other person and truly listening to what is going on in their life.
2. Avoiding sexual activity to benefit the long-term growth of a relationship.
3. Encouraging the other person to spend quality time with their friends and family (apart from you).

4) Why is time essential to determining someone’s character?

Time is essential to proving character because anyone can act nice for a little while. It’s crucial for singles to date long enough to determine what is consistent about their boyfriend or girlfriend. For instance, if you watch the way a person handles stress, conflict, family issues, or job struggles over the period of a year, then you will discover a lot about their integrity.

Ask your group to consider what caused some of their worst dating decisions. A common problem is rushing the relationship too quickly, rather than taking the time to determine character. Offer the following verse as a reference for determining character in dating:

1 Samuel 16:7– ...man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



Session #5 – The Bond of Passion Appreciating Sexual Desire

Session Preparation Ideas

Before this session, get a tube of superglue and some red and white napkins. Use several drops of superglue to bond the napkins together. After Rob's video, ask your group to rip the two napkins apart. As the destruction occurs, explain how fibers from one napkin stay bonded to the other. This illustrates how sexual activity causes a piece of our heart to remain joined to someone else forever. For further study on the topics in this session, read pages 125 - 157 in Rob's book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Find out which group member has the funniest first kiss story.

(Use this question to help your group consider how physical activity can change a dating relationship.)

Video Introduction

Many singles fall into a pattern of dating that involves physical affection followed by heartache. This cycle happens when they date someone, go overboard sensually, spoil their relationship, and feel broken inside after they separate. Yet, God says sex is supposed to be for our good. If so, then why do so many people crave or misuse it? In this session, Rob explains the "why" behind the "what" concerning the most controversial subject in dating.

Video Notes

Why can sex feel so good?

1. God primarily created sex to help you comprehend the delight that He feels for you.

Isaiah 62:3-4 – You will be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord. For the Lord delights in you!

Ephesians 5:25-27 – (Christ) gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or such thing; that she should be holy and blameless.

2. You were made to be naked and accepted.

Why can sex hurt so bad?

1 Corinthians 6:13-18 – ...the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members with a harlot? No! Don't you know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

Sex is like superglue.

The Hidden Damage from Sexual Immorality:

1. Loss of the capacity to feel intimacy for another person.
2. Contraction of painful or deadly transmitted diseases.
3. Carrying a heavy, emotional burden of guilt and shame.

What did you hear from God during this session?

Session #5

Appreciating Sexual Desire

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) List three lies that our media industry promotes about sex.

Examples include:

1. Sex is fine between consenting adults, or if two people say they love each other.
2. Sexual consequences, such as pregnancy, disease, or emotional numbness, won't happen to you.
3. Sex is merely a physical or biological act.

2) Read 1 Corinthians 6:18. Based on this verse and Rob's talk, in what ways does sex outside of marriage cause physical and emotional consequences?

1 Corinthians 6:18 – Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body (NLT)

God intended sex as a bonding process within marriage. Therefore, sex outside of marriage can contribute to the following consequences:

Physical consequences:

- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Bondage to addictions, such as internet porn
- Loss of reputation around other people

Emotional consequences:

- Heartache upon ending the relationship
- Feelings of guilt or shame
- Lack of ability to develop intimacy with someone new
- Inability to sense God's moral guidance and wisdom

3) Why does sexual activity immediately change the atmosphere of a relationship?

- Sexual activity can cause physical or emotional pleasure to become the primary focus of the relationship.
- Premarital sex usually generates a false feeling of intimacy with someone you don't know.
- Sex makes a person feel an artificial sense of commitment with someone else.
- Cause a reaction of guilt and shame or someone feeling used or abused.

4) Discuss how it feels to realize that we are naked and totally accepted before God.

As humans in a fallen world, our existence is characterized by protecting ourselves from rejection or trying to wear a mask of competence. We work and strive to make other people think we are acceptable.

Yet, God insists that He loves us despite our attempts to perform or appear competent. He urges us to remove our feeble defenses and rest in His unconditional acceptance. We can rest in the fact that He knows our innermost being, our thoughts and struggles, temptation and failings; yet, He still delights in relationship with us!



Session #6 – The Bond of Passion Resisting Sexual Temptation

Session Preparation Ideas

Bring a plate full of tempting cookies to your meeting and place them on a table in front of your group. Then, put a sign next to the plate that says, “Do NOT think about these cookies!” Wait several minutes, and then ask each group member to honestly admit how many times they thought about the cookies. This exercise helps reveal how we don’t have the necessary willpower to fight temptation. For further preparation on the topics in this session, read pages 141 – 157 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

Talk about some of the popular diet fads that you’ve tried and consider why they are so difficult to maintain. (Use this question to explore how human willpower is unreliable.)

Video Introduction

How do you stay pure in a society that bombards you with sexual images, references, and innuendos? Is it possible to enjoy a passionate relationship without going too far sexually? How do you stand firm when everyone else is doing it? In this session, Rob reveals the most overlooked secret to victory over sexual temptation.

Video Notes

Living by rules alone will encourage sin to tempt you.

Romans 7:7-8 – I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law hadn’t said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, taking opportunity through the Law, produced in me coveting of every kind; apart from the Law – sin is dead.

Galatians 3:24-25 – Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

2 Corinthians 5:14 – For the love of Christ controls us...

How do you resist temptation? Let Christ fight the battle for you.

2 Corinthians 12:9 – And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Galatians 5:16, 24 – ...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the lust of the flesh...Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Colossians 1:11 – ...strengthened with His glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need... (NLT)

Healing Your Heart from a Sexual Mistake:

1. Agree with God that you misused His gift of sex.
2. Forgive yourself – knowing God has forgiven you.
3. Let your heart heal before you date again.

Leaders Guide – Session #6 Resisting Sexual Temptation (continued)

Questions to consider:

Ladies:

- 1) Would you be willing to depend on Christ for the power to say “No” when your boyfriend pushes you for sex?
- 2) Would you be willing to sacrifice being in vogue and avoid deliberately wearing clothes that makes men lust?

Men:

- 1) Would you be willing to sacrifice your immediate sexual desires and not push your girlfriend for sex?
- 2) Would you be willing to protect your relationships with women by guarding your mind from porn and trashy movies?

What did you hear from God during this session?

Additional Leader Resources:

As a Leader / Facilitator, be prepared to offer additional help to anyone in your group whom you recognize is struggling with a specific area of temptation or addiction. Besides your local church pastor or Christian counselor, we recommend the following resources:

Books for struggles with Sexual Addictions:

Finding Freedom in a Sex-obsessed World by Neil Anderson (Harvest House Publishers)
The Bondage Breaker by Neil Anderson (Harvest House Publishers)
Every Man’s Battle by Stephen Arterburn (Waterbrook Press)
Every Woman’s Battle by Shannon Ethridge (Waterbrook Press)

Internet Filter Services:

www.Bsafe.com
www.XXXChurch.com

Contacts for Christian Counselors:

Focus on the Family: www.pureintimacy.org
American Association of Christian Counselors: www.aacc.net
Listing of grace-based counseling services: www.robeagar.com

Ministries for people struggling with Homosexuality:

www.loveinaction.org
www.exodus.to

Session #6

Resisting Sexual Temptation

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) Discuss why fighting sexual temptation through your own willpower leads to defeat.

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 7:7-8 that living by laws, rules, or self-discipline alone will actually invite sin to tempt you.

Likewise, when we rely upon our own willpower, essentially we believe the lie that we do not need to rely upon God. This mindset of independence leads us away from our only source of real victory – Christ, Himself.

2) What are some of practical ways that Christ can help disarm temptation for you?

Part of experiencing victory over sexual temptation involves responding to the wise motivations that Christ places within us. Examples could include:

- Installing a filter on your computer to block out internet trash.
- Ending a relationship with a friend or peer who approves of sexual immorality.
- Avoiding certain movies or plays that promote ungodly view of sex.
- Canceling subscriptions to magazines that promote sexual indulgence, such as GQ, Cosmo, Victoria's Secret, etc.

3) Read Ephesians 4:17–24. According to these verses, how does sinful behavior originate? What is your defense against sexual immorality?

Ephesians 4:17-24 - ...the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Sinful behavior originates as a lie that Satan presents in our mind. If a person allows Satan's lie to dominate their thinking and decision-making, the result is a "futility of mind," "darkened understanding," "ignorance," or "callousness" towards God. Fortunately, Christ faced Satan's schemes and always recognized the lie behind each temptation. In the same way, Jesus offers us His wisdom against any temptation when we "put on the new self" and allow Him to renew our mind to His truth. Below are some other verses that relate to this fact:

1 Corinthians 2:16 – For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – ...we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

Philippians 4:8 – Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

4) Discuss the benefits of maintaining sexual purity.

- Purity makes it easier to discover the whole person in a relationship, such as the emotional, spiritual, and intellectual aspects. In contrast, sexual involvement encourages couples to overlook issues that affect long-term compatibility.
- Purity helps avoid consequences, such as transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, or sexual dysfunction.
- Purity improves your ability to develop lasting intimacy with someone else in marriage.
- Purity provides a positive influence to other people as well as your future children.



Session #7 – Where’s the Passion? Recognizing God’s Role in Your Social Life

Session Preparation Ideas

Gather a pair of dice, a coin, and a large flower with petals. Before you begin the Group Discussion Questions, show these items to your group by rolling the dice, flipping the coins, and pulling off each flower petal in a game of “He loves me – he loves me not.” Use these items to remind your group that a Christian’s dating life is not merely left up to chance. God is real, and He is intimately involved in every aspect of our life, especially our relationships. For further study on the topics in this session, read pages 43 – 59 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

If you could ask God one question about dating, what would it be?
(Use this question to uncover if and how your group believes that God is involved in the dating process.)

Video Introduction

One of the most frustrating questions single adults face is, “Why am I still single?” The pressure to get married from well-meaning friends or your biological clock can create a devastating level of anxiety. As time goes by, bitterness or cynicism can creep into our hearts. In this session, Rob reveals how his desire for marriage plagued him for years, and the one question that set him free.

Video Notes

Marriage Myth #1: Marriage will make you happy.
Marriage Myth #2: If you’re single, something must be wrong with you.

Is God to blame for singleness or social suffering? No
(see Job 1:8-19; Luke 22:31-32)

True love cannot exist without a free will.

The quality of your social life is based on the choices you make.

Romans 8:31-39 – ...If God is for us, who is against us?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution?...In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that nothing...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What Part does God Play in Your Social Life?

1. God promises to bring people across your path.

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2. God promises to create desires within you to love those He brings across your path.

Philippians 2:13 – For it is God who is at work in you, to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Colossians 3:10,12 ...put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according the image of the One who created you...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

What did you hear from God during this session?

Session #7

Recognizing God's Role in Your Social Life

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) Beside the two marriage myths that Rob described, what other false expectations do many people harbor about marriage?

Ask your group to share their ideas first. Then, if necessary, use the following false expectations to round out your discussion:

- “Married life is easier than single life.”
- “I will become a better person when I am married.”
- “Marriage will change the person that I am dating.”
- “All you need is love; love conquers all.”
- “Real living will begin once I get married.”

2) Some singles tend to put their life “on hold” until they get married. Have each member of the group describe something that he or she has been putting off until they get married.

Encourage your group to share their thoughts. Then, offer the statements below as additional examples of some things that people irrationally postpone while waiting for marriage:

- Learning how to dance, such as ballroom, swing, country, salsa, etc.
- Getting your finances in order.
- Decorating or buying furniture for your house.
- Going on a trip overseas.

3) Discuss what life would be like without a free will. Why must free will exist to enjoy true love?

Without a free will, we would live like robots or puppets – with no ability to feel love or experience real freedom. Consider the life of a dog in a cage where he can never leave or make his own decisions. Worse, consider the life of a prostitute who is forced to be with someone whom she does not love and whom does not love her.

If the ability to choose is removed from a relationship, then love will disappear and turn into manipulation. In order for true love to exist, both people in a relationship must feely want to be together. People cannot feel love for another person if they are coerced into being together.

Consider how blessed we are that God gave us the ability to choose. He did not have to give us this freedom. Instead, our ability to decide proves how God desires to share true love with His creation!

4) In Matthew 22:30, Jesus states that there is no marriage in Heaven. Discuss why earthly marriage should not be the ultimate goal of a Christian.

Matthew 22:30 – For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven (NLT)

Since all human love is performance-based, it's impossible for another person to give us the unconditional acceptance that we crave. Only God can truly satisfy our heart's need for love. Therefore, making earthly marriage our ultimate goal in life diminishes God and His ability to meet our needs. In essence, we worship and desire the creature, rather than the Creator.



Session #8 – Where’s the Passion? Realizing Your Role in Your Social Life

Session Preparation Ideas

In this session, Rob discusses the importance of surrendering our rights to God, especially the right to marriage. Relinquishing our rights to God is the key to true freedom, so this session could be the most powerful time for your group. Each Study Guide contains a page entitled, “Personal Prayer of Surrender” page. When the video segment ends, give your group time to quietly consider this prayer before you start the Discussion Questions. For further study on the topics in this session, read pages 43 – 59 in Rob’s book, *Dating with Pure Passion*.

Kickoff Question

If you lived in a culture of pre-arranged marriage, who would you trust more to select your spouse – your mother or your father? Why? (This question is meant to help your group humorously consider what it would be like if someone else chose a spouse for them.)

Video Introduction

In the previous session, Rob explained two ways that God works on behalf of your social life. However, God has also given you a free will, because without free will, true love cannot exist. Therefore, you have a role to play in your relationships. In this final session, Rob discusses how your decisions directly affect the quality of your dating life.

Video Notes

What Part do You Play in Your Social Life?

1. Choose to love the people you meet.

Marriage happens by choice – not by chance.

2. Let go of the demand to get married.

Why is Surrender Important?

Whenever you demand something from God, you block His love from benefiting that particular area of your life.

Whatever you depend upon for your happiness will always wind up controlling you.

Hebrews 13:21 – God will equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.

Questions to consider:

1. Am I dating to find someone to make me feel better about myself?
2. Am I content and thankful to God that I’m single right now?
3. Am I terrified of the possibility that I may never get married?
4. Is the love of Jesus Christ enough for me?

Psalms 37:4 – Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Personal Prayer of Surrender

“Lord, I apologize for blaming my romantic frustrations on You. Thank You for creating marriage. However, if I never get married (or remarried), it is now okay with me.

As of today, Lord, I surrender my demand for marriage to You. Because, now I know that Your love will always complete me and fulfill my wildest dreams. Lord, help me to respond to the motivations you will place within me to love those who cross my path – with no strings attached.

May my relationships be avenues to express Your love through me to other people. You want the best for me, Lord, and I trust you to live Your life through me to build great relationships.”

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Colossians 2:10 – ... and in Him you have been made complete...

Session #8

Realizing Your Role in Your Social Life

Small Group Discussion Questions

1) How can focusing on the needs of others help you become more attractive to date?

We all carry a deep-rooted need for love, acceptance, significance, and security. Therefore, when someone genuinely concentrates on meeting our needs, that person usually becomes appealing to us. For example, if you buy someone birthday gift, that person will usually appreciate how you remembered them and spent money to show you care. Your actions are attractive to them.

On the other hand, if you forget about a close friend's birthday, that individual may get upset and lower their opinion of you. That's because people who disregard our needs tend to come across as draining or annoying. We rarely feel attracted to people who act like they don't care about us.

2) What is the difference between a desire for marriage and the demand for marriage? Why can the demand for marriage be a detriment to your life?

A desire is something you want, but can live without. Thus, the desire for marriage means you'd like to get married, but you will still be fine if it does not happen. In contrast, a demand is something you must have in order to feel okay about yourself. So, the demand for marriage means you must get married in order to function or feel good about life. Demanding the right to marriage can be detrimental, because that demand can cause:

- Your peace and self-esteem to be controlled by the opposite sex (who opinions of you will always be fickle).
- Your trust in God to diminish, because you try harder to achieve your agenda rather than asking God to live His perfect plan through you life.

3) Read Hosea 2:16, 19-20. If God does not promise us earthly marriage, then what type of promise about marriage does He make?

Hosea 2:16, 19-20 – “In that coming day,” says the Lord, “you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master...' I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unending love and compassion. I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as Lord.” (NLT)

God does not promise us an earthly spouse, because human love is temporary, performance-based, and eventually unsatisfying. Instead, God goes much further and offers us the amazing blessing of an intimate relationship with Him! The verses in Hosea reveal His deep affection for us. Notice how God is not a boring, stoic being. He expresses His passionate sense of faithfulness, compassion, justice, and desire to be known by us. With such a strong promise from God, what more could we ask for?

4) What did you learn the most from the eight teaching sessions with Rob Eagar? How would you explain what you learned to a friend?

As the leader, ask your group to share how this 8-week study gave them a new perspective in one specific area of their dating life or spiritual relationship with God. (See next page for other topics not covered in this curriculum.)

**Additional Topics covered within Rob Eagar’s book,
“Dating with Pure Passion”**

Chapter Titles and page numbers:

Passion from Heaven Celebrating Your Spiritual Marriage.....	25
The Pursuit of Passion How to Find and Attract Mature Singles to Date.....	83
The Enemy of Passion The Impact of Sin on Your Dating Life.....	105
Guarding Your Passion How to Protect Your Heart from a Premature Commitment.....	161
The Sabotage of Passion Dealing with the Relational Baggage that Destroys Relationships.....	183
The Compassion of Passion How to Break Up with Sensitivity.....	203
Embrace Your Passion 8 Questions to Consider before You Get Engaged.....	223

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