

MAMA BEAR

Apologetics

GUIDE TO
SEXUALITY DISCIPLESHIP
WORKBOOK



HILLARY MORGAN FERRER
WITH TEASI CANNON



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Verses marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®


Published in association with the literary agency of Mark Sweeney & Associates.

For bulk, special sales, or ministry purchases, please call 1-800-547-8979.

Email: Customerservice@hhpbooks.com

Cover design and illustration by Amanda Hudson, Faceout Studio

Interior designed by Rockwell Davis

 This logo is a federally registered trademark of the Hawkins Children’s LLC. Harvest House Publishers, Inc., is the exclusive licensee of this trademark.

Mama Bear Apologetics® Guide to Sexuality Discipleship Workbook

Copyright © 2022 by Hillary Morgan Ferrer

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97408

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-8600-7 (pbk)

ISBN 978-0-7369-8601-4 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 / BP / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

Welcome, and How to Use This Study Guide 5

Part One: Things I Probably Already Knew... But Kinda Forgot

1. Sexually Set Apart: *How Sexual Holiness Is a Nonnegotiable for Disciples of Jesus* 15
2. Sex Is Spelled W-O-R-L-D-V-I-E-W: *Wait, What's a Worldview?* 23
3. A Pretty Great Design, When Followed: *How Gender, Marriage, Sex, and Family Show Us the God We Can't See* 35
4. Demolishing Arguments, Not People: *Releasing Ideological Captives* 47

Part Two: Wait, My Kids Are Being Taught What?!

5. Are You Sex Smarter than a Fifth Grader? *Understanding the New National Sexual Education Standards* 61
6. The Enemy's New Playbook: *The Language and Morality of the Sexual Agenda* 75
7. The Genderbread Person: *The New Definitions of Identity, Expression, Sex, and Attraction* 85
8. Sex-Positivity: *Anything Goes if It's Consensual* 95

Part Three: Things That Are Tripping Everyone Up

9. Pornography: <i>It's Not Technically Sex if You're by Yourself, Right?</i>	109
10. Same-Sex Attraction: <i>Hurting People to Be Loved</i>	121
11. Gender Identity: <i>When Birds Identify as Bees</i>	137
12. Purity Culture: <i>When Our Best Efforts Went Kablooey</i>	149
13. Taking Up Your Sexual Cross: <i>Because We're All Born That Way</i>	161

WELCOME, AND HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE



Welcome! We at Mama Bear Apologetics are so excited to introduce you to the first-ever study *and* discipleship guide. Our sincere desire is that as you work through it, you will be gently challenged but not at all overwhelmed.

WHAT THE HECK IS A DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE?

We love our study guides. They help us better sift through the material and digest it so we can integrate it into our everyday lives. And in *Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality*, we give a lot of practical tips for how to address these ideas with your kids. But what if we could have even *more* practical tips? More is better, right? (Unless you have something like scabies, and then less is generally better.)

As you read through this guide, you'll notice this icon: 🐾, which symbolizes a *discipleship opportunity*. With each discipleship opportunity comes an activity or conversation that will translate abstract ideas into a more concrete form so that little minds can better understand the concepts. We don't have specific ages attached to each opportunity, though we sometimes specify if the activity is for your older cubs.

Something we want everyone to keep in mind: The questions at the end of each chapter in your main book and the questions in

this discipleship guide are all applicable for dinnertime discussions! Don't think that since you are going through these questions as an adult (or in a group of adults) that they can't be used for kids. Children from middle school on up should be able to track with the ideas presented here. So if at some point you want to grab another study guide and go through the process again with your middle schooler or high schooler, you can. And we encourage you to do so! It doesn't have to be labeled "teen guide" to still be applicable for teens.

Challenges to identity—both through gender and sexuality—are confusing, and we cannot underestimate the impact they are having on our children. It's time to take back some ground, Mama Bears! And as we do so, remember: We don't stand before God accountable for our successes. We stand before Him accountable for our *faithfulness*. So let's be faithful in stewarding these precious boys and girls under our care.

With that in mind, we want to share some tips on how to make the most of your reading and this guide.

Before you read a chapter in *Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality*:

- We would love for you to have a four-color retractable click pen (flashback to high school!) on hand, but if you don't, grab four different colored pencils, pens, or highlighters and use a system similar to the one we recommend below.
- Have a dictionary or dictionary app ready for reference.
- Skim through the chapter's title and bold-print sub-heads to get an idea of what you're going to read. (This pre-reading strategy helps you get excited to dig in.)
- Think of a question or two you hope will be answered in the chapter.
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

Lord God, our world is so broken. There is so much sexual confusion everywhere. Who am I? What can one person do? Open my eyes like the servant of Elisha, Lord. Let me see Your angels who are with me in the battle. I pray that You would remove any fear I have regarding this topic and plant my feet firm in Your truth. I pray that as You shepherd me into a biblical understanding of sex, that I would understand Your commandments for sex. And as I understand Your commandments, Lord, help me lead my children to understand the beauty of Your magnificent design.

While you read the chapter:

I have used this multicolor note-taking system for almost a decade. It has helped me to actively read and organize material so that, even years later, I can go back and glance through a book for its main points and my favorite quotes. The strategy suggested here is a simplified version of my system, so you can tweak it to what works best for you. I find that color-coding is helpful for future reference purposes:

- Black ink—draw a box around unfamiliar words and draw a squiggly line under the definition *if* it appears within the text. (Squiggly lines will help you distinguish definitions from general notes.) If the word is not defined, record definitions in the margins or at the back of the book. We recommend looking up the definitions right away!
- Blue ink—underline helpful passages for easy skimming. This will help you when you search through the book later for the main ideas.
- Green ink—use this color for content you have questions about. (I also draw a question mark in the margin.)
- Red ink or highlight—save this for the true “Aha!” moments or ideas you want to remember. (This is especially helpful for finding key quotes and thoughts in the future.)

After you read the chapter:

- Quickly skim through the chapter to review all the words you've underlined, highlighted, and written in the margins. (Look at all those colors. This is your pat on the back for being an active reader!)
- Jump into the study guide material for that chapter.

In each chapter of the study guide you will find an introductory thought followed by seven major sections. We want you to set your own pace, so we haven't divided the lessons or sections into specific days, but you could choose to work through one section a day. Here are the types of sections:

Active Reading Notes: Here you will record a few pre-, mid-, and post-reading thoughts, including vocabulary. Here's an example.

READING FOCUS	MY RESPONSE
Before You Read:	
<p>After skimming the chapter title and subheads, what is one question you would like to have answered in the chapter?</p>	<p><i>My question:</i> Why does sex matter?</p>
While You Read:	
<p><i>Vocabulary</i> List three words you found in the chapter, and we will add a few more words we hope you will find and look up in the dictionary.</p>	<p><i>My words:</i> Here, write down words that are unfamiliar to you, and make your best attempt to briefly record the definitions. <i>Book words:</i> Here, you'll find words that are defined in the book. Page numbers are given so that you can fill in the definitions in this space.</p>

After You Read:	
<p><i>Answer</i></p> <p>Did you find an answer to your pre-reading question? (We hope so.) If yes, write it down.</p>	<p><i>My answer:</i></p> <p>Sex matters because it helps us see and know God accurately.</p>
<p><i>“Aha!” moments</i></p> <p>List three things you highlighted or underlined in the chapter. This can be new information you learned, encouraging reinforcements of things you already knew, or just plain anything that popped out at you.</p>	<p><i>My “Aha!” moments:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.

Pick a Question: As you’re using this study guide, it’s easy to forget that there are already study questions in the main book. Use this space as an opportunity to review the questions and respond to the one you find most thought-provoking.

Empowering Words: Supplemental and significant vocabulary will be given here.

Empowering Thoughts: Supplemental or reinforcing thoughts will be included here.

Digging Deeper: Here we will ask some guiding questions to help you process what you’ve learned and further equip you to “ROAR Like a Mother.” Be aware that not all questions are asking you to simply regurgitate what the book said. Many are intended to make you *think* through the material, draw connections, and wrestle through real-life scenarios. But don’t worry! If you get stuck on a question, just move on until you feel more comfortable digging in. Or better yet, grab some girlfriends for coffee and discuss it! Whether or not you answer every single question, you *will* come away from this study guide with a much stronger grasp of what you’re learning.


Key Scriptures: Here we've offered a few related verses that can help you reflect on what God says regarding the ideas presented in each chapter. We recommend journaling through each of them, evaluating *how* the passages reinforce or address the biblical perspective of the topic at hand.

PAWS for Prayer: Here you will be guided in a sweet time of prayer—a moment to take what you're learning to God and intentionally involve the Holy Spirit in your journey. The PAWS section has four steps:

- **PRAISE**—Identify the *attributes* of God that you have seen manifested lately. You may be thankful *for* a recent bonus, but you will want to *praise* God for being Jehovah Rapha, the God who provides. Or maybe you didn't get the bonus and you don't know why. *Praise* God for His omniscience and how He knows what you need when you need it, even if you don't understand. Praising God for *who* He is rather than *what* He does will help you orient your heart toward Him, no matter what is going on in your life, good or bad. If you need a little help with this section, I recommend Googling “attributes of God” or “names of God.”
- **ADMIT**—Acknowledge the areas where you have blown it. Maybe you didn't trust God, or you acted in anger with your kids or husband. Whatever your dirty laundry, bring it to God here. He already knows your heart and wants to be with you as you learn to navigate this thing called the Christian life.
- **WORSHIP through thanksgiving**—Here is where you can thank God for specific things He has *done*. When you remember that all good things come from Him, you realize you have much to be thankful for.

- **SUPPLICATION (or SUBMIT your requests)**—
After you have praised God for who He is, admitted where you are struggling, and worshipped through thanksgiving, then present your requests to Him. Sometimes God doesn't give us what we ask for because we ask with wrong motives (James 4:3). Or sometimes what we want would thwart something that He—in His goodness and knowledge—is doing in our lives that couldn't be accomplished if He answered our specific wish. But He still wants us to ask, and we can know that however He chooses to answer, it is for our good.



And don't forget! The discipleship opportunities are not in their own section. Every time you see a , we have provided you with activities or conversations to have with your kids.



Part One

THINGS I PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW...BUT KINDA FORGOT

In part one, we learn how God defines sex and what He desires to communicate through human sexuality. We learn about the power of sex and how destructive it is when misused. We also define and explain the wonderful aspects of a biblical worldview, including how it affects the way we view sexuality. We see that an incorrect view of sex can lead to an incorrect view of God and His heart—including His good designs and His love for all humanity.

We hope the following pages will shed light on the cultural confusion you're likely experiencing related to all things sex. We also hope to empower you to have God-honoring convictions and conversations with your friends, neighbors, and children, and to find hope and peace in God's good design for His creation. Our goal is to equip you to share that hope with a hurting world in need of truth and love.

LESSON 1

SEXUALLY SET APART



God’s commands regarding sex are not just a side issue. They are a prominent theme spanning the Old and New Testaments, especially in terms of holiness. The word “holy” literally means “set apart for a special purpose.” As Christians, our sexual ethic is a major way in which we are called to be set apart from the world because sexual holiness is, in essence, a *sign of our knowledge of and commitment to God*. It has always been this way.

Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality, page 23

ACTIVE READING NOTES

READING FOCUS	MY RESPONSE
Before You Read:	
<p>After skimming the chapter title and subheads, what is one question you would like to have answered in the chapter?</p>	<p>My question:</p>
While You Read:	
<p><i>Vocabulary</i> List three words you found in the chapter in addition to the words we have provided.</p>	<p>My words:</p> <p>Book words: <i>postmodernism</i> (page 22)—</p> <p><i>the argument from silence</i> (page 26)—</p>
After You Read:	
<p><i>Answer</i> Did you find an answer to your pre-reading question? (We hope so.) If yes, write it down.</p>	<p>My answer:</p>
<p><i>“Aha!” moments</i> List three things you highlighted or underlined in the chapter. This can be new information you learned, encouraging reinforcements of things you already knew, or just plain anything that popped out at you.</p>	<p>My “Aha!” moments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.

PICK A QUESTION

Use this space to review the study questions at the end of the chapter and respond to the one you find most thought-provoking or convicting.

EMPOWERING WORDS

- *Sufficiency of Scripture*—Scripture contains all the words that God intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and it now contains what we need to know for salvation and trusting and obeying God perfectly (Deuteronomy 29:29).
- *Perspicuity (clarity) of Scripture*—According to this doctrine, you don't need a seminary degree to understand what God has said to you and what He wants for your life. The Bible's teachings can be understood by all who read it seeking God's help (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
- *Sin*—Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.
- *Sanctification*—This refers to the maturation of a Christian, progressively becoming more like Christ in heart, words, and action. Unlike the gift of salvation, the sanctifying process is hard work and involves our active and mindful participation.

EMPOWERING THOUGHTS

In this chapter we learn that “holiness” literally means “set apart for

a special purpose.” On page 33, we read that one of the defining characteristics of Christ’s followers is sexual holiness. While sexual holiness is a significant defining characteristic of Christ-followers and reflects essential truths to those around us, we must remember it’s not the primary purpose of the gospel or the ultimate goal of Christian life.

1. Read the following verses and record what they say about our primary goal as followers of Christ.

Philippians 3:10-12:

Hebrews 13:21:



What Does It Mean to Be Set Apart?

What items do you have lying around your home or office that are set apart for special use? A LEGO set? A special dress? Video game controllers? What about things that have a particular use and would be ruined were you to misuse them? (Like contacts. You can’t really use contacts for anything other than seeing. And if you do...well...you probably shouldn’t put them back in your eyes!) Start creating this category in your child’s mind so they have examples to draw from when you discuss that they as a Christian are to be holy—set apart for a special use.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read the paragraph that starts by describing the Asherah poles on page 25. What can we learn about the character and motives of the pagan gods from the type of worship they required? Compare your answers to the character and motives of Christ.

Pagan gods

Christ

2. In the first paragraph of the section called “The New Testament: Pointing Back to God’s Design” on page 26, we are introduced to a common misinterpretation regarding Jesus’ views on sexuality, especially homosexuality. It asserts that because Jesus doesn’t explicitly condemn homosexuality, it must be condoned—at least in some measure. How is the argument from silence logically fallacious and theologically dangerous?
3. Read the verses listed on pages 27-28. How would you respond to a self-identified Christian who claims that Christians who reject other sexual expressions/orientations are misrepresenting God’s heart, promoting harmful doctrines that hurt and

marginalize people whom God has called us to love? (Pay special attention to the Thessalonians passage.)

4. On page 30, we read, “What are you doing when you engage in the act of sex before committing to the covenant of marriage? Lying. You are lying. You are repeating a promise that you never made.” Read the following verses, and record any thoughts you have regarding the potential ripple effects of this lie.

1 Corinthians 6:18:

Romans 1:24-32:

5. How might understanding sex as an act of “repeating marital vows in bodily form” change the way people view sex, even within a marriage? How might it change the way husbands approach or respond to their wives during intimate moments? What about wives to their husbands?



Keeping It Simple

This is where you can have some fun. Pick something random in your house—such as orange juice or a spatula—and then remind your kids constantly throughout the week everything it’s *not* to be used for (washing the dog, waxing the car, cleaning up vomit...). Have them join in; I bet they’ll get even more creative than you! When they’ve had about all they can take, ask them, “We had some fun with that, but do you think our extra instructions regarding [fill in the blank] were helpful? Stupid? Necessary? Unnecessary?”

Bring it back to God’s Word and sexuality. The Bible doesn’t claim to be an exhaustive book, detailing everything *not* to do. Instead, it provides us with a clear original design (Genesis 5:2), the original purpose (Genesis 1:28, 2:23-25), and maybe a *few* ways of misusing His good gift of sexuality (Leviticus 18 and 20). If your kids ever ask if an alternate sexuality or gender is a sin, simply respond with “What was God’s original design?” Keep it simple.

KEY SCRIPTURES

We encourage you to read the following verses in context (meaning, read at least the entire chapter). Reflect on how they relate to what you’re learning, and thank God for the hope and guidance found in His Word.

- 2 Timothy 2:21—“If anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”
- Psalm 37:4—“Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
- Romans 12:2—“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

PAWS FOR PRAYER

In closing this chapter, reflect on what you learned in lesson 1 and journal your prayer to God here:

Praise:

Admit:

Worship with thanksgiving:

Supplication (ask):