

CHASING LOVE

LEADER MEETING GUIDE

Step 1: Explain the WHAT **What is this study about?**

Our desire behind this study is to give you a gospel-centered tool as you help students navigate love, sex, dating, and more. Sean McDowell takes us through God's Word to answer some of our toughest questions about love, sex, gender, and relationships. He provides practical counsel on how we can embrace a life of purity by loving God and loving others with both our body and our soul. We'll learn how to show love to those living outside of God's design. And we will discover that God's love heals our wounds and His grace frees us from the shame and guilt of past sin.

What is our goal in working through this as a group?

We pray that your students will walk away from this 9-session study:

- Understanding and embracing God's design for love, relationships, and sexuality.
- Seeing that they're never beyond God's forgiveness and grace.
- Knowing how to engage the LGBTQ conversation with both compassion and biblical clarity.
- Responding in compassion to those who have been abused or who believe differently.

Step 2: Share the WHY **Why talk about this at church?**

Christians are often hesitant to have these conversations as a part of their discipleship process, but that leaves information gaps that the world will always try to fill in. Students need safe environments where they can learn how Scripture leads us to navigate today's toughest issues and offers the most loving and redeeming answers to our questions.

Step 3: Clarify the HOW **How do you prepare for this study as a leader?**

In the back of the Chasing Love Bible study book, there is a guide specifically designed for leaders. You will want to start your preparation for each session there, as well as watch each session's video ahead of time.

What do you need to know as you lead students through this content?

1. Christians are accused of being hateful in regards to this conversation often because we are. As you prepare to lead through this material you may find yourself in uncomfortable territory and it is important that you not allow that to come across in conversation as angry or judgmental.
2. Leading through this content has just as much to do with listening to your students as it does actively teaching them. Don't assume that you know how your students feel about a certain issue. Ask questions for understanding and lead from an informed position.
3. Do a little homework of your own. Could it be that you haven't truly processed your own positions on some of the content to be covered? You need to make sure that you don't go into this study blind.

4. Your students have likely been exposed to more than you think. Don't be surprised if their answers reflect a level of knowledge or experience you didn't anticipate. Also, there may be shame associated with past decisions your students have made. Be sensitive and loving.
5. DO NOT make a joke out of any of the issues in this context. This will inevitably build walls that will prevent conversation.
6. Understand your role as a "Mandatory Reporter" in cases where abuse is disclosed. If you are unfamiliar with what that looks like, talk with your student pastor before you meet with your group for the first time. (**Student Pastor/Leader**—This is an important step to cover)

What else would be helpful when preparing?

Student Pastor/Leader—List some books/articles that you want your leaders to read ahead of time. We highly recommend the LifeWay Students podcast series with Sean McDowell. You can check that out [here](#).

Step 4: Talk about the WHEN/WHERE

Student Pastor/Leader—This is the step where you will talk about the specific details for your ministry leaders. Answer questions like when and where their groups will meet. Provide details about format, rosters, snacks, etc.

Step 5: Remind them of the WHO

Student Pastor/Leader—This final step is where you get to encourage your leaders in their role. Remind them of Who gives them strength and wisdom to lead students through such an important, yet challenging topic. Pray over them before you close out.