

BEYOND THE BATTLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



SESSION 1 – GETTING STARTED

- 1 Watch the Session 1 video.
- 2 When instructed in the video, push pause and read through the Group Covenant together.
- 3 When instructed in the Group Covenant, take a moment for everyone visit www.covenanteyes.com to start their account and then download the app – use promo code BEYOND to start your 30-day free trial.
- 4 After reading through the Group Covenant, have everyone who is planning to be in the group sign their names to it. If you only have a digital copy of the Covenant, find a blank piece of paper and write **“We affirm and agree to the Beyond the Battle Group Covenant”** on the top, then have everyone add their signatures.
- 5 Push play on the video to finish it.
- 6 Beginning with your group leader, have everyone share their story with sexual sin up to this point in their life, then share what they want to get out of this group.
- 7 Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now. These are turned in to the group leader *or* you can break into groups of three (peer advocates) and cards are exchanged among the triad.
- 8 Your homework for this week is to read chapters 1-2 and do the 7 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).
- 9 Close in prayer.

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SESSION 2 – ENTITLEMENT IS YOUR WORST ENEMY

CHAPTERS 1 & 2

- 1 Watch the Session 2 video.
- 2 Your posture is different in a college dorm room than in the military. How do you typically carry yourself before God (with what kind of posture)?
- 3 Has God's grace or his holiness been overemphasized in your church experience?
- 4 An airplane needs two wings to fly. In Scripture, God has a wing of grace/mercy and a wing of holiness/judgment. What happens to the message if the grace/mercy wing is taken away? What happens if the (God's) holiness/judgment wing gets taken away?
- 5 Have one person read Exodus 19:9-19 aloud in a loud, dramatic way. Everyone else close your eyes and try to picture yourself on the mountain while the text is being read, paying attention to how you're feeling.
 - A While on the mountain, would any of you go to God and demand a better sex life because he owes it to you?
 - B What feelings did you experience on the Exodus 19 mountain?
 - C What do you deserve?
 - D How does your mountain experience affect the demands you put on God as it relates to your marriage or singleness?
- 6 Read Matthew 18:21-35 together. The debt owed in this parable is 200,000 years worth of salary.
 - A How does it feel to be in that much debt?
 - B Describe the *amount* of mercy extended to pay this debt, and how that differs from the typical amount of mercy we generally extend. Have you ever realized how much mercy God has actually bestowed on you? It may sound like a Sunday School answer, but how much mercy was that? Give some words to it.
 - C How does it feel to be forgiven of THAT MUCH debt?
 - D How does this mercy make you *feel* in contrast to how you felt on the Exodus 19 mountain?
- 7 How do you feel when you get your paycheck?
 - A How would you feel if it was payday and your boss said, "Sorry, no paycheck this week"?
 - B How often do you approach God that way... like he's the boss that didn't give you your paycheck?
 - C Now picture Publisher's Clearing House is at your door with balloons and a 5- million-dollar check. How do you feel?
 - D Contrast the difference between Publisher's Clearing House at your door and getting your paycheck. How do you respond differently to each one and why?
 - E What happens to our disposition when we receive God's mercy like a paycheck instead of a gift?
 - F How do we feel when we treat our life (our wife or our singleness) like a paycheck instead of a gift?
 - G Would anyone tell the Publisher's Clearing House check people "What? Only 5 million dollars? Tack on at least \$1 million more to that or you aren't coming into this house!" –Why wouldn't you ever say that? How do we treat God like this?
- 8 If you did realize the true scope of God's mercy, how would it change your perspective on your singleness or marriage?
 - A What would it look like to live in gratitude for the undeserved mercy God gave you (The 200,000 years' worth of debt) and have that be enough? Rather than always praying and telling God to give you "what you deserve" in your marriage, singleness, or sex life?
- 9 Instead of making demands on God, discuss the mercies God has provided you. Start with simple things around you in the room you're sitting in.
 - Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now.
 - Your homework for this week is to read chapters 3-4 and do the 7 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).

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SESSION 3 — GOLDEN GODS WITH GOLDEN HAIR

CHAPTERS 3 & 4

- 1 Watch the Session 3 video.
- 2 Read Matthew 3:16-17.
 - A When in the gospels did Jesus go to the Father for strength during his earthly ministry? How did Jesus plug into the Father to provide himself with everything he needed to avoid temptation?
 - B Now think about your daily rhythm time, what excuses do you make for not doing it? Yet Jesus needed this time!
- 3 Read Romans 8 together. As a group, make a list of the truths listed in the text about who each of you are. Make another list of the lies you've been believing in your life.
 - A Raise your hand if you want more of the first list in your life. Then raise your hand if you want more of the second list in your life.
 - B What is your knee jerk reaction to these two lists?
 - C Why is it so hard to live in the truths of the first list, but such auto-pilot to live in the second list?
 - D What practical steps can we take for our hearts and minds to be transformed to living in the first list? How can you incorporate these truths into your daily time with the Lord? How will this change your mindset when temptation comes?
- 4 Look at Romans 8:15-17, what is the definition of an "heir"? a "co-heir"?
 - A What did Jesus get from the Father in Matthew 3:16-17? (Make a short list) If we are co-heirs with Jesus, do we get what Jesus got in Matthew 3:17 then?
- 5 Memorize the second half of Colossians 1:22 for your next group meeting. What truths about this verse can you bank on for your validation, approval, and acceptance?
- 6 Talk as a group about the lies behind the "Golden-Haired Woman" myth. How do you buy into these lies? How do they drive you to sin?
- 7 How have you made women your "power source"? (i.e. "Make me valuable, accept me, approve of me, give me comfort . . .")
 - A How can you find these things in Jesus instead?
- 8 What can you do on a daily basis to be reminded of and refreshed in Jesus' all-sufficient grace and love for you?
 - Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now.
 - Your homework for this week is to read chapters 5-6 and do the 7 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).

HOW DID JESUS PLUG INTO THE FATHER TO PROVIDE HIMSELF WITH EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO AVOID TEMPTATION?

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SESSION 4 – OBJECTIFICATION: THE DEHUMANIZATION OF WOMEN

CHAPTERS 5 & 6

- 1 Watch the Session 4 video.
- 2 Read Psalm 139:1-18 aloud together as if it is describing the women you are tempted to lust over. (Swap “me” and “I” pronouns for “she” and “her.”)
- 3 What is your knee jerk reaction / reflection to reading the psalm in this way?
 - A Any specific verses that stood out to you?
 - B How can reading this psalm like this help you to view women the way he designed them, rather than buying into the convoluted way culture has told us to view them?
- 4 What’s wrong with objectifying? (Both for the women as the object, and for us as the objectifier)
- 5 Can you think of nonsexual examples of objectification? (Objectification occurs whenever people aren’t seen as people, but as commodities.)
 - A When have you been treated like an object? How did it feel?
- 6 Read the “When Women Want to Be Objectified” section at the end of chapter 5 aloud. Would you beat that child? What would you do instead?
 - A What’s the worst thing you could do to this boy? (And why?)
 - B How does this apply to the women who believe a lie about themselves and want us to look at them as objects? Should we reinforce this lie just because they want us to? Why or why not?
 - C What if this slave boy (a.k.a. provocative woman) lived in a world full of Christian men who never picked up the whip... who never treated him (her) like she was an object...?
 - i It’s unlikely the world will ever be this way, BUT THE CHURCH CAN, and it starts with us! What type of impact could *that* church have on women?
- 7 (married) How does God want you to view your wife?
- 8 (married) How does it make you feel when someone lusts over your wife?
- 9 (singles) Why is it important to fix how you view women, sex, and marriage now, rather than waiting until after you’re married?
 - Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now.
 - Your homework for this week is to read chapters 7-8 and do the 7 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
OBJECTIFYING?

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SESSION 5 — GOD'S RECIPE

CHAPTERS 7 & 8

- 1 Watch the Session 5 video.
- 2 Compare Adam Levine's version of "animal sex" (from the song lyrics in the video) with God's design for sex.
- 3 Read Genesis 2:24 & 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 together. "I have the right to do anything" & "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" are quotes from Corinthian culture about sex. How are these in line with Adam Levine's "animal sex" mindset?
 - A Who has heard a pastor say at a wedding that "the two will become one flesh" at this marriage ceremony? Does Paul agree or disagree with that pastor in 1 Corinthians 6:15-16? When do these verses say the one-flesh bond happens?
 - B In Matthew 5:27-28, Jesus makes the argument that "one flesh" happens whenever we lust. Can you imagine being married simultaneously to all the women you have ever lusted over? Describe what that would be like.
 - C How can this mental picture help you in your daily struggle against lust?
- 4 As a group, make a list of the results of the animal sex mindset and a list of the results that come from God's design for sex.
 - A Read the two lists out loud. Raise your hand if you want more of the first list in your life. Raise your hand if you want more of the second list in your life.
 - B What's your quick, knee jerk reaction when those two lists are read?
 - C Why do we go to List 1 so often? What do we think it provides for us?
 - D What can we practically do to trust and live by List 2 instead of trusting and living by List 1?
 - E How can THE MEN OF THE CHURCH create the 2nd type of list? How will it be a beacon of light to a hopeless world?
 - F What are ways you can associate lustful temptation (when it hits you in real time) with the reality of List 1?
- 5 Look back at the metaphors of the Play-Doh, apple orchard, the car, the cake recipe, and the trust fall.
 - A Which analogy is the most helpful to you, and why?
 - B How have you experienced both the positive and negative sides of these metaphors?
- 6 List all the benefits of following God's design for sex in comparison to Satan's. What do you personally have to lose if you follow Satan's design?
 - Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now.
 - Your homework for this week is to read chapters 9-10 and do the 7 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).

**WHAT DO YOU
PERSONALLY HAVE
TO LOSE IF YOU
FOLLOW SATAN'S
DESIGN?**

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SESSION 6 – EMBRACING REALITY

CHAPTERS 9 & 10

- 1 Watch the Session 6 video.
- 2 Read Proverbs 5 together. As a group, make a list from the proverb titled, “If you live in fantasy, *this* is what will happen.” Make another list titled, “If you follow God’s design for sex, *this* is what will happen.”
 - A Raise your hand if you want more of List 1 in your life.
Raise your hand if you want more of List 2 in your life.
 - B What are your quick, knee jerk reactions as those two lists were read?
 - C How can these lists help reprogram your automatic response when fantasy appears on your radar?
- 3 Picture someone you know who has lived List 1. Picture someone you know who has lived List 2. Which of those two do you want to be like? Which do you want your children to be like?
- 4 What does it look like to “water the grass” of your marriage or singleness right now?
- 5 What type of hunger do you look to fantasy to satisfy?
- 6 What would the implications and collateral damage be if you had an affair today and/or continued to live in fantasy? What pain and loss stands out to you most powerfully? What do you stand to gain if you embrace reality?
- 7 What influences (such as TV shows, Netflix, movies, porn, flirtatious women, etc.) have you continued to allow into your life that are causing you to yearn for fantasy?
 - A What do you need to do to remove yourself from these influences?
- 8 Thinking back to what you learned in chapters 1 and 2, how is a deep understanding of God’s mercy essential to an appreciation of reality?
 - Make sure everyone has access to an Accountability Card and is prepared to turn it in 7 days from now.
 - Your homework for this week is to read chapters 11-12 and do the 5 days of daily devotions that correspond with the reading (found in the appendix).

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO “WATER THE GRASS” OF YOUR MARRIAGE OR SINGLENESS RIGHT NOW?

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SESSION 7 – TOOLS TOGETHER

CHAPTERS 11 & 12

- 1 Watch the Session 7 video.
- 2 What will it take to get you to use what you've learned from this book rather than to let it simply sit on your mental shelf and collect dust?
- 3 Read Proverbs 27:17 & 1 Timothy 4:7b-8 together. What would *actively training* yourself to be godly look like versus being passive in this pursuit?
- 4 Read Hebrews 3:13. What does this verse tell us about persevering together, *in community*, rather than alone?

A Read Hebrews 10:23-25 and answer the same question. Then also Hebrews 12:1-3. Discuss each passage individually before moving on to read the next one.
- 5 Which of the 3 takeaways listed in chapter 12 hit home the most for you?
- 6 Look at the ideas listed for vulnerable community at the bottom of page 197. Have everyone share what they are going to be doing next to continue the regular practice of group accountability and vulnerability.
- 7 What were the most helpful truths and principles you learned throughout this book and/or this group? How will you regularly remind yourself of these truths?
- 8 Will anyone lead others in a *Beyond the Battle* small group now that we have finished?