These ideas were huge, not because smart people wrote about them, but because ordinary people lived them out. Think of what we know about sexual abuse—most abusers were themselves victims of abuse when they were young. There's every reason to believe it's always been that way. Which means that adult believers who were abused as children chose to break the cycle of abuse—they chose to give better than they got. Adult believers chose to treat their wives as partners instead of property. Adult believers who grew up one way chose another way to live by the power of God's Spirit—so children weren't disposable, marriages weren't temporary, and sex wasn't violent. That was world-changing stuff.

Maybe it's time to do that again. Because somehow the people of God lost the thread of sexual wholeness. We talk like we know what's going on, but no one listens anymore, because our actions speak louder than words.

So maybe it's time to stop talking and, quietly but steadily, help each other grow into our sexuality healthy and whole. We can do that with God's grace—not because we're good, but because God is so very good. Maybe it's time for us to give better than we got. It's within our reach.

where did you learn about sex?

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Q: The following activity will help you think about where you've learned about sex. What have you learned about sex from these sources, and how true to life do you think the information is?

romance novelsmusicsex ed

• soap operas

movies

visual porn-

locker room talk

sleepover gossip and confessionals

· parent-child sex talks

youth group talks

Christian books and speakers

Other:_____

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