

## the last word

closing discussion

### BOMBARDMENT

*How to soak in more of God's messages about sex.*

Read the following quote aloud.

**A recent study concluded that an average American teen watches 14,000 sexual encounters a year on television alone. Most adolescents spend one second learning the discipline of intimacy for every hundred hours they absorb distorted images of intimacy from media and other kids.**

**A movie like *Pretty Woman* is a wonderful case in point. Here is a very entertaining Hollywood film, which is purportedly about love. In fact it's only about the first stage of love, the romance of the mating ritual. Once the couple has mated, the movie ends. It is like 99 percent of the movies, stories, and books we read. Love, in this unreal model, is too easy, not a discipline but a series of conversations and little tiffs that lead to sex and marriage.**

**To an adult who knows better, *Pretty Woman* is just good entertainment. To a boy, *Pretty Woman* teaches not discipline, but fantasy.**

**—Michael Gurian, *The Wonder of Boys* (Tarcher/Putnam)**

- Q:** Do you think it's possible to live our lives so the sexual messages we don't consider helpful have little or no impact on our understanding of sexuality?
- Q:** Romans 12:2 says we should no longer be conformed to the pattern of this world but that we should be transformed by the renewing of our minds. What does this mean? How is this relevant to what we're talking about?
- Q:** Instead of the animal sacrifices described in the Old Testament, Paul invites all believers to be living sacrifices in verse 1. What do you think it means to be a *living sacrifice*? How would this affect what kinds of sexual messages we expose ourselves to?
- Q:** What are some things we can do to continually keep ourselves open to God's positive message of sexuality and block out the world's negative messages?

**Absorbing more of God's views about sexuality than the distorted ones that surround us is no easy thing. Hard-core porn is just a mouse click away, and soft-core porn is on our cable stations every night. Many movies make it seem like it's socially acceptable to be sexually active early in your teenage years. This is without doubt one of the hardest things you will have to face in the Christian life. But it's possible to get a positive understanding of sexuality that's not repressive or binding. It comes from having a right relationship with God—the one who created sex in the first place.**

survey

### WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

*Where we stand and where we want to go.*

**Hopefully this group can be a safe place for us to discuss the messages and pressures that are bombarding us about our sexuality. And hopefully we won't just stop there, but we'll figure out what God says to us both through the Bible and through each other. We don't want to waste anybody's time here—not yours or mine. To**

When the Leader's Guide contains a handout and the Student Book contains a reflection, you can use either one, but not both. (They're similar, but not identical.)

If your students are using *What (Almost) Nobody Will Tell You about Sex*, you can direct them to **Where in the World Are You?** (page 13).

#### YOU'LL NEED

- copies of **Where in the World Are You?** (page 29), one per student
- pencils