

## In other words

list-making activity

### WHAT IS SEXY?

Helping mature students understand the desires of each gender and reflect how that affects the way we treat our brothers and sisters.

Do this opening brainstorming activity by separating the girls from the guys and having two simultaneous discussions and then coming back together to share your results. Or do it together and ask the boys to listen silently while the girls make their list, then ask the girls to listen silently while the boys make their list.

- **Girls, list all the things you think are sexy in boys.**
- **Boys, list all the things you think are sexy in girls.**

**Q:** Is there anything that surprises you about the other gender's list?

**Q:** Is there anything that makes you uncomfortable about the other gender's list?

**Q:** Do you think it's okay to be intentionally sexy if you have no intention of having sex? Discuss that.

**Q:** What are the potential benefits and risks of recognizing what is sexy?

- Suppose someone is tempted to mishandle the information we've shared about what is sexy. How might they mishandle it? How can we be accountable to each other for handling this conversation responsibly?

For more in-depth personal reflection about what is and isn't sexy, use the questions included in **What Is Sexy?** (page 132 in this book) as guidance for more large or small group discussion, or as a tool for individual, personal reflection.

Bible study

### THE POWER OF SEX

*Sex is explosive. There. We said it.*

Read Genesis 26:1-14.

**Q:** What do you think of Isaac's strategy to save his own life?

- How do you imagine Rebekah felt about it?
- Would you have gone along if you'd been in Rebekah's sandals?

Look at Genesis 12:10-20 and 20:1-18.

**Q:** Does any of this sound familiar? Does the phrase *Like father, like son* mean anything to you? Can't you just imagine Isaac sitting around the fire as a boy hearing his dad, Abraham, tell this story?

Look again at Genesis 26:2-5.

**Q:** What do you think tipped off the king that Isaac and Rebekah weren't brother and sister?

**The Hebrew word translated as caressing in the NIV, means playing. The King James Version of the Bible uses the word sporting. It's a word that suggests intimate giggling. Whatever they were giggling**

#### YOU'LL NEED

- list-making materials—some combination of a whiteboard, markers, different colored index cards, or sheets of butcher paper hung on the wall
- copies of **What Is Sexy?** (page 132), one per student
- pencils

Don't do this exercise if you can't do it in good conscience. It's intended for mature older teens to explore their convictions and the reasons behind those convictions.

If your students are using *What (Almost) Nobody Will Tell You about Sex*, you can direct them to **The Power of Sex** (page 71).

“Embarrassed for some of the ‘veterans’ of music. They had their original [macho] image, and they're still hanging on to it. The sex thing, they're still working it. This dude-looks-like-your-grandpa kind of thing—it's so silly, it kinda makes you sick. These guys are still using that ancient version of what's sexy, the bikinis and tongues. It's over. I relate to the people that are coming up now, and that's not there, that's long gone.”

—Eddie Vedder, singer and songwriter (Rolling Stone, October 28, 1994)