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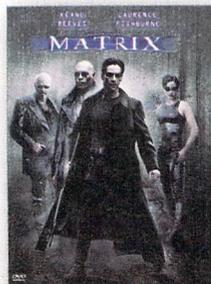
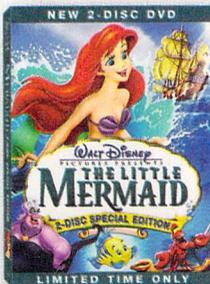
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Speak the Truth—The Greatest Story Ever Told is no bedtime story—it's an action thriller. If teenagers are turning to sex to fill their God-shaped hole, then they haven't yet discovered their place in that epic adventure—they don't know they're *in* the story, not *observers* of it. To address this gap of understanding, Youth for Christ created something called the 3Story Model (3Story.org). It's a way of life "based on living and understanding three stories—God's, mine, and theirs'...Talking about Jesus comes out of the context of My Story and not my agenda. This non-threatening model shows why I love Jesus and how/what He saved me from, and how He can do that for you, too. This model removes the 'choose Jesus or go to hell' approach and gently moves in conversation from my faith to how it can be yours." It's not the threat of hell that will rescue kids from the hookup culture—it's the promise of a deeper intimacy with the One who loves them best.

Tell the Story Another Way—God has embedded metaphors for his Story all around us, whether or not the creators of these metaphors even understand what they've done. Two examples of this truth: In Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, the title character parallels Christ. She leaves her home and enters the world of humans with redemptive resolve. She's locked in a struggle to save the people from an evil enemy who's working to destroy them. In a scene stolen from C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, the villainess Ursula makes it clear she cares nothing for the souls she's captured, happy only because she's succeeded in stealing them from the film's God-parallel, Triton. And in *The Matrix*, Neo is a messianic figure predestined to save the world from a corrupt antichrist. Find metaphors for the Story in films, and use them as a portal into the one true Story.

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MISC. *The Little Mermaid* (Rated G) and *The Matrix* (Rated R) are both available on Netflix.com



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Ignore the Awkwardness and Open Your Mouth—

Talking about sex with your teenagers will be awkward—it's a universal truth. Kids giggle when they talk about it, *but they still talk about it*. We have to be adult enough to take on this topic, no matter how awkward we feel. Our credibility requires it. We will not be magnets for their tough questions until we've proven we can navigate these choppy waters. Talking about sex is awkward because every good thing will be opposed—awkwardness is just one more way to raise the cost of doing what we're called to do. So take the hit, stand your ground, and defend your kids against the lure of the hookup culture. Use my template for talking about sex (on page 54—"Let's Talk About Sex") if it will help.

IF TEENAGERS ARE TURNING TO SEX TO FILL THEIR GOD-SHAPED HOLE, THEN THEY HAVEN'T YET DISCOVERED THEIR PLACE IN THAT EPIC ADVENTURE—THEY DON'T KNOW THEY'RE IN THE STORY, NOT OBSERVERS OF IT.

At a base level, we want to move students from the "givens" of promiscuity to the "starting point" of asexuality—calling them into a commitment to asexual behavior (no sex) generates more interest and discussion than the churchy words we use. And the asexual standard is not simply targeted at intercourse. I tell my kids: "If you wouldn't want your grandma watching you do it, then it's not asexual."

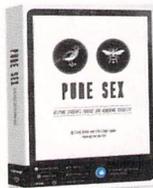
In the end, rescuing our teenagers from the hookup culture is centrally about what we're *for*, not what we're *against*. And we're *for* the beauty and power of a redeemed relationship with God. Sex outside of marriage obscures, often camouflages, and sometimes derails that redemptive path. **g**



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RESOURCES

TO HELP WITH THE SEX TALK



PURE SEX

Teaching teenagers about a God-honoring lifestyle that honors his imperatives for sexual behavior is, well, universally awkward. Sex is a consuming topic for teenagers—not surprising, of course, because their culture shoots sexual messages at them like they were caught in a paintball cross-fire. Your students desperately need guidance, wisdom, and truth. And that's why we've partnered with xxxchurch.com founder Craig Gross to produce a four-lesson DVD-based curriculum called *Pure Sex*. Craig and Cris Clapp Logan, an Internet safety expert, have created a tell-it-like-it-is resource that's flexible enough to use in your large-group gathering or in your small-group ministry. Topics include:

Lesson 1: Is Purity Still Possible?

Lesson 2: Land of XXX

Lesson 3: How Far is Too Far?

Lesson 4 (for the guys): Masturbation

Lesson 4 (for the girls): Girl Stuff

This curriculum includes discussion guides, promotional materials, and more—all of them editable and reproducible.



THE VOLUNTEER'S BACK POCKET GUIDE TO SEX

Teenagers live in a sex-saturated world. And for many of them, sex has become a purely physical act, fully divorced from spirituality, love, and commitment. Sex, pornography, and "hooking up" are all met with the same response: "It's no big deal."

Authors Craig Gross—founder of XXXchurch.com—and Cris Clapp Logan—an Internet safety expert, artist, and writer—don't sugarcoat the realities, and they don't hold back in bluntly, honestly tackling the toughest topics, including pornography, sexuality, masturbation, and purity.



99 THINGS EVERY GIRL SHOULD KNOW

Being a teenage girl has never been easy. In today's world, it's even more complicated.

In her book *99 Things Every Girl Should Know*, veteran youth worker Neely McQueen shares a wealth of wisdom on becoming and being a girl who knows that she is valuable, meaningful, and loved. Put this book into the hands of a girl who will benefit from the reminder that she's not alone in the journey of discovering what it means to be a beautiful girl of great worth.