

BIOS

WEEK 1

August Teaching Series

THE **TRUTH** ABOUT SEX



Pastor Dick Read has been part of the Asbury staff since 1980 and has served in many different roles in student ministry, lifelong discipleship and congregational care including serving as executive pastor. With a Bachelor's in New Testament Biblical Literature and a Master of Divinity with an emphasis in theology, both from Oral Roberts University, Dick has a passion for learning and teaching Scripture, while guiding people to be dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ. He wants everyone to know how important it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus so you can find purpose, direction and meaning in life.

Dick is an ordained deacon in the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church and has served in a number of conference and district leadership positions. He greatly enjoys mentoring young adults who are pursuing their future in pastoral ministry.

In his over 40 years of ministry at Asbury, Dick has spent countless hours with groups, couples and individuals in the pursuit of who God is desiring for them to be, understanding their purpose and God-given roles in identity, marriage, parenting, vocation and mission. His effective pastoral ministry experience warrants our attention with this evening's presentation: Beautifully Created: The Truth About Our Bodies.

Dick and his wife Cindy met while serving in ministry together at Asbury and have been married for 37 years. Together they have two pretty-good adult children: Rachel (Aaron) and David (Nina) and three perfect grandchildren.

WEEK 2



Shelby Millis has been serving at Asbury since May of 2018 after finishing her undergraduate studies at Oral Roberts University. She serves as the Lead Associate and Middle School Associate for Asbury Student Ministries. Shelby received her Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2018 and is looking forward to continuing on for a Ph.D in the near future. On July 3, 2021 Shelby married her best friend, Jacob, and they have been enjoying this new season of marriage. Shelby is passionate about seeing students grow in their faith as well as partnering with the entire family in order to help students become lifelong followers of Jesus.

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Pastor Guy Ames grew up in Methodist parsonages and has served in most local church capacities. After completing college at ORU with a Psychology degree he attended Asbury Seminary in Kentucky, receiving his Master of Divinity and later received a Doctor of Ministry from Phillips Theological Seminary. He has served congregations since his college years in Muskogee, Ada, Mustang, and El Reno Wesley. His last local church pastorate was for twelve years at Chapel Hill UMC in Oklahoma City. In 2006 (before joining the Tulsa Asbury staff) Guy served on Bishop Bob Hayes' Cabinet as District Superintendent for the Ardmore District for six years.

During his pastoral ministry Ames was the Oklahoma Conference Disaster Response Coordinator from 1994-1996, during that time he served as the OK UM Coordinator for the Murrah Disaster Response and directed United Methodist responses to the 1985 OK flood disaster and the 1999 Moore Tornado relief. During that same time, he also served as a national disaster consultant for United Methodist Committee on Relief, working in such diverse settings as Hurricane Hugo in Charleston, S.C., and Hurricane Andrew in SE Louisiana.

Ames has served numerous Oklahoma Boards and voluntary positions over the course of his 46 years of ordained ministry. In 2012, Guy began serving on the Tulsa Asbury staff with responsibilities as coordinator of pastoral care systems, director of the Asbury Foundation, and Chapel Worship leader. In July 2019, he officially retired from the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church and began a part-time role with Tulsa Asbury as Director of the Asbury Foundation. Guy has been married to Margaret since 1978 and together they have three married sons, Chet, Micah, and Aaron who have given Guy & Margaret seven grandchildren (six boys and one wonderful granddaughter).

Guy's area of specialty in pastoral ministry has focused on preaching, teaching, and pastoral counseling. Knowing first-hand how family crises can affect marriages, he has spent years learning how to help others work through particular complexities and difficulties in family living.

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WEEK 3

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Pastor James Lambert was born in Redondo Beach, California, and grew up in Altus, Oklahoma. His family were active members at First UMC in Altus while his father was an instructor pilot in the US Air Force and his mother was a Nursing Instructor at WOSC. James received a Bachelor of Musical Arts from University of Oklahoma and then a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary.

James sensed a call to ministry at an early age which became clear during his time at the OU Wesley Foundation. There he received many leadership opportunities in the areas of music, Bible teaching, and small group facilitation. James is an ordained Deacon in the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church, meaning God has called him to preach the Word, assist in the Sacraments, and help people connect to God's Church. He has served on staff at churches in Norman, Enid, and Tulsa, and two years ago became Pastor of Adult Discipleship here at Asbury.

James is married to Christine, who grew up in New York, New Jersey, and Broken Arrow. They are blessed with one beautiful Daughter, Naomi, and love making music together and spending time with family and friends.

James has long been a student of Scripture, classical Christianity, and Wesleyan theology. Early in his faith journey mentors informed him of the struggles and divisions within Methodism and other denominations regarding homosexuality and sexuality in general, which intertwined with basic beliefs about the Bible and salvation. This led to a lifetime of caring deeply about the questions we are discussing this month. James has worked and served and spoken alongside people of varying opinions on homosexual relationships and many other points of doctrine. He hopes this teaching series will equip the Asbury congregation to be confident and compassionate Christian witnesses in our world.

BIOS

WEEK 4

August Teaching Series
THE **TRUTH** ABOUT SEX



Brett Hendrix is a licensed minister, speaker, Board Certified Pastoral Counselor (BCPC), Executive Director and founder of Changing Lanes Ministries. Using his 20+ year battle with sexual addiction, Brett leads others to a place of restoration and a changed life. Brett has worked with men and teens struggling with sexual addiction since 2007. In 2014, he left his fulltime job and launched Changing Lanes from a part time ministry into a 501(c)3 non-profit. In addition to leading small groups with Changing Lanes, Brett works with parents/churches/teachers to educate and equip them to fight for our kids in this digital world. Brett and his wife Christi live in Oklahoma with their two sons and daughter.

You can learn more about Brett and Changing Lanes Ministries at changinglanesministries.com.

WEEK 5



Stephen H. Black, Executive Director with First Stone Ministries
Stephen Black is a pastor, speaker, and author who has worked in pastoral care ministry in local churches and with International Ministerial Fellowship for over 28 years. He works full-time as Executive Director with First Stone Ministries (FSM) in Oklahoma City. He serves the Body of Christ at FSM in one-on-one discipleship, weekly support group sessions, speaking, and organization of freedom conferences and seminars.

Stephen is the author of *Freedom Realized – Finding Freedom from Homosexuality & Living a Life Free from Labels* and *Freedom Realized – The Complete First Stone Ministries Effectiveness Survey Report*. He is a frequent guest on national radio shows and other venues giving hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He can be heard weekly on his new webcast show, “Freedom Realized LIVE” on Friday at 10 am CT.

Stephen is one of seven founders of the Restored Hope Network (RHN) and served on the RHN board for the first seven years (2012-2018). He currently serves on the board for Parents and Friends of Ex-gays and Gays. Stephen has been married to his wife Robin since May of 1986. They have three adult children and four grandchildren who are all lifelong residents of the Oklahoma City area.

DEFINITIONS

OF BASIC TERMS

(The main source for the following is lexico.com, a publication of Oxford English Dictionary.)

Sex

- 1) “Sexual activity, including specifically sexual intercourse.”
- 2) “Either of the two main categories (male or female) into which humans and most other living things are divided on the basis of their reproductive functions.”

Gender

- 1) “Either of the two sexes (male and female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones.”

“The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female.”

- 2) “In languages... each of the classes of nouns and pronouns distinguished by the different inflections they have and require in words syntactically associated with them.” Origin: Late Middle English from Old French gendre (modern genre), based on Latin genus, ‘birth, family, nation’. The earliest meanings were ‘kind, sort, genus’ and ‘type or class of noun,’ etc.

Sexuality

- 1) Capacity for sexual feelings.
 - 1.1) A person’s identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are typically attracted; sexual orientation.
 - 1.2) Sexual activity.
- 2) The quality or state of being sexual. (source: Merriam-Webster.com)
- 3) Sexual character; possession of the structural and functional traits of sex. (Dictionary.com)

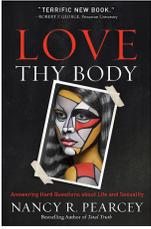
Notes on Definitions:

- We will define more terms throughout the sessions.
- Note that definitions and terminology change and evolve according to actual usage.
- Not all changes of terminology are neutral; they are sometimes intentionally advocated to advance particular ideas.

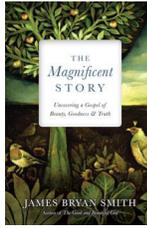
RESOURCES

August Teaching Series
THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX

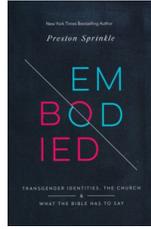
WEEK 1 | Beautifully Created: The Truth about our Bodies



Love Thy Body
Nancy R. Pearcey



The Magnificent Story
James Bryan Smith



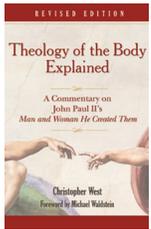
Embodyed
Preston Sprinkle



For the Body
Timothy C. Tennent



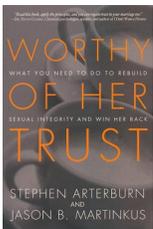
The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self
Carl R. Trueman



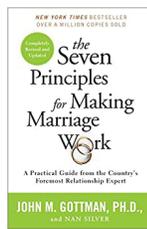
Theology of the Body
Christopher West

RESOURCES

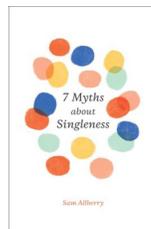
WEEK 2 | Two Become One: The Truth about Sex and Marriage



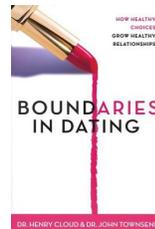
Worthy of Her Trust
Jason Martinkus & Stephen Arterburn



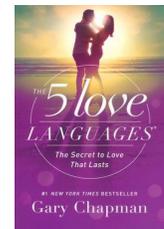
The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert
John Gottman



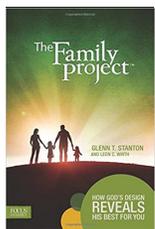
7 Myths About Singleness
Sam Allberry



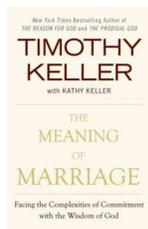
Boundaries in Dating
Henry Cloud & John Townsend



The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts
Gary Chapman



The Family Project: How God's Design Reveals His Best for You
Glenn Stanton & Leon Wirth



The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God
Timothy Keller

Websites:

- focusonthefamily.com
- bettermarriages.org
- familylife.org
(A Weekend to Remember)

Workshop/Program:

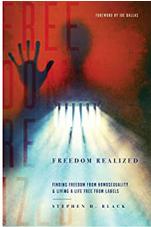
- *Couple 2 Couple*
(Engaged Couples)

RESOURCES

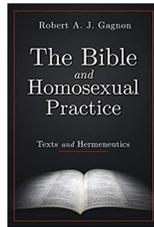
WEEK 3 | Off Limits: The Truth about Homosexuality

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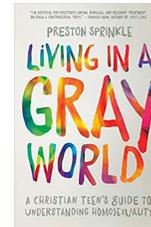
Freedom Realized
Stephen Black



The Bible and Homosexual Practice
Robert Gagnon



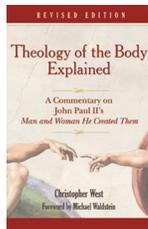
Sing Over Me
Dennis Jernigan



Living in a Gray World
Preston Sprinkle



The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self
Carl R. Trueman



Theology of the Body
Christopher West

Film "In His Image: Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality," American Family Studios

Article "Paul, St.," article by Eugene Rice found at http://www.glbtcarchive.com/ssh/paul_S.pdf (This article is an example of a historian who is queer-friendly yet objective looking at what the New Testament teaches about homosexuality.)

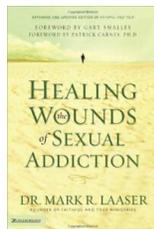
More Resources available at First Stone Ministries, firestone.org.

RESOURCES

WEEK 4 | Fake Fantasy: The Truth about Pornography



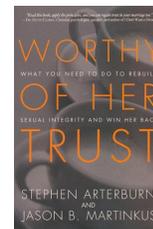
The Game Plan
Joe Dallas



Healing Wounds of Sexual Addiction
Dr. Mark Laaser



Unwanted
Jay Stringer



Worthy of Her Trust
Jason Martinkus & Stephen Arterburn

ASBURY

SUPPORT GROUPS

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Alzheimer's Support Group (offered by Alzheimer's Association) for caregivers, families, and friends of those with dementia. Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1-3 pm, Room 1508. To register, contact Cheryl at 918.808.7939 or Peggy at 918.232.4906.

Bipolar/Depression Support Group (offered by Bright Tomorrows) for adults with bipolar disorder or major depressive disorder meets at Asbury on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7 pm in Room 2820, September-May. This is a faith-affirming and curriculum-based program that gives helpful tools to participants. For more information, go to www.brighttomorrows.org.

Caregivers/Family Support Group (offered by Bright Tomorrows) for families of those with a physical, mental, or emotional difficulty meets at Asbury on the 2nd & 3rd Thursday at 7 pm in Room 2820, September-May. This is a faith-affirming and curriculum-based program that is both hope-inspiring and Christian faith-affirming. For more information, go to brighttomorrows.org.

DivorceCare is a faith-based, 11-week support program to help you through the after-effects of divorce. The DVD teaching includes topics such as understanding the hurt, dealing with anger, depression, and loneliness, working through forgiveness, budgeting, dating and more. Group discussion in a safe environment along with the scripture-focused workbook helps bring healing and wholeness. Offered twice a year at 3 or 6 pm. Next session begins Wednesday, September 1. Register at divorcecare.org. Contact Pastor Andrea Stephens at 918.392.1145 or astephens@asburytulsa.org.

Finding Hope is a support group for loved ones of addicts. It is a safe place where you will find education, inspiration, prayer, helpful coping tools, and a community of others who understand the impact of addiction. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 pm, Room 2821. For more information, contact June Owings at jsaowings@yahoo.com or Pastor Andrea at astephens@asburytulsa.org.

Widows Support Groups - Losing a spouse brings a painful life transition—ready or not. We are here to love, uplift, and encourage you during this difficult time. Small groups meet at Asbury on third Mondays at 1 pm and fourth Wednesdays at 7 pm. Socials are also offered twice a year. All widows are welcome. For up-to-date information on meetings and socials, go to www.balconywomen.com. Contact Melissa at melissa@balconywomen.com or 918.640.7573 to confirm meeting dates, times, and locations.

Young Widows - Small groups for young widows meet at Asbury on second Mondays at 6 pm and fourth Tuesdays at 6 pm. Contact Shae at shae@balconywomen.com or 918.640.5649 to confirm meeting dates, time, and location.

