



Say to wisdom, “you are my sister” And make understanding your closest friend. For they will keep you from the immoral woman. Proverbs 7:4-5a

Women's Discipleship Group – 2006
HELPMATES, HANDMAIDENS & HARLOTS ONLINE BIBLE STUDY
FAMILY LIFE SERIES
LESSON # 1 SEX AND THE “DOWN-LOW” BROTHERS

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Definitions: Helpmate – Handmaiden – Harlot

Helpmate: A married woman who is committed to the well-being of her husband.

Handmaiden: A married or unmarried woman who is committed to serving the Lord.

Harlot: A married or unmarried woman who will sacrifice her soul and body for personal gain.

ABC ‘PRIMETIME’ SPECIAL – AIDS IN BLACK AMERICA – August 23, 2006

Excerpt: “Black Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population but account for over 50 percent of all new cases of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That infection rate is 8 times the rate of whites. Among women, the numbers are even more shocking— **almost 70 percent of all newly diagnosed HIV-positive women in the U.S. are black women.** Black women are 23 times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than white women, with heterosexual contact being the overwhelming method of infection in black America.” For more information go online to: **ABC – Aids In Black America.**

OPENING STATEMENT:

Dear Friends:

In light of the above statement, I think it's time to get straight to the point about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. Especially since all the major research points to the fact that “bothers on the down-low” are the major reason for the skyrocketing HIV/AIDS epidemic among African American Women. Because this is a Bible study I want to first look at what the Bible says about homosexuality and the spread of infectious disease. Is homosexuality wrong? Is gay okay? Is HIV/AIDS God's way of punishing us for our sins? Why do straight people have to suffer? Can these answers be found in the Bible? Some of you may feel that the Bible isn't relevant to the sexual issues of this day and age, but perhaps if you keep your heart open, you might find out that the ancient Word of God has the contemporary answers that you are seeking. *Ecclesiastes 1:9 – What has been will be again, what has been will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.*

DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS WRONG?

I Corinthians 6:9 – Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ...will inherit the kingdom of God.

Leviticus 18:22 –Do not practice homosexuality; it is a detestable sin.

Commentary: The Bible is clear that God views all sexual immorality as sin. This includes homosexuality. In many cases homosexuals are able to transmit HIV/AIDS to heterosexual women because of promiscuity.

1. DOES THE BIBLE TALK ABOUT “DOWNLOW” MEN?

Genesis 19:4 – Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to your house tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

Psalms 59:6-7 – Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. They bellow with their mouths, with sharp word on their lips—for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”

Commentary: The Bible says that homosexual men prowled around at night on the DL looking for male sexual partners. In this day and age, nothing has changed. Bi-sexual and homosexual men still go around in secret to gay bars and bathhouses to have sex with other men.

2. DOES GOD PUNISH HOMOSEXUALITY AND FORNICATION WITH DISEASE?

Romans 1:27 – And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men and, as a result, suffered within themselves the penalty in their bodies that they so richly deserved.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59 – “If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.

Commentary: God requires that we obey His sexual laws in order to protect us from disease. When we go away from the natural use of our body, there are always negative consequences. You would not eat after a stranger because you fear disease. God warns us that if we break His laws concerning morality and cleanliness, disease is always the result.

3. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE?

Proverbs 5:16-17 (Living) – Drink water from your own well—share your love only with your wife. Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with anyone? You should reserve it for yourself. Don't share it with strangers.

Leviticus 18:20-22 – “Do not **defile** yourself by having sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife. Do not practice homosexuality, it is a detestable sin.”

Commentary: The word *defile* means to contaminate or make your self unclean. Fidelity in marriage is God's way of building strong families and keeping us safe from sexually transmitted diseases. Homosexuality is anti-marriage because same sex relationships cannot reproduce life and the families that reflect the image of God.

4. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE CHURCH?

1 Kings 15:12 – He (King Josiah) also tore down the houses of the male prostitutes who were in the Temple of the LORD.

Job 36:13 – “The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help. They die in their youth, among the male prostitutes of the temples.

Commentary: Homosexuality in the church is nothing new. In Biblical days homosexuals in the church were called Temple prostitutes. Godly leaders in the Bible destroyed them. Ungodly leaders allowed them to flourish in the church and in the land.

5. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PROMISCUOUS WOMEN AND DISEASE ?

Isaiah 3:16-7 – Next the Lord will judge the women of Jerusalem, who walk around with their noses in the air, with tinkling ornaments on their ankles. Their eyes rove among the crowds, flirting with men. The Lord will send a plague of scabs to ornament their heads.

Numbers 31:15 – “Why have you let all the women live?” he demanded... “They are the ones who caused the plague to strike the LORD's people. Now kill all the boys and all the women who have slept with a man.”

Commentary: Women who have experienced multiple sexual partners in the past and even now are putting their lives at risk. In Biblical times there were no medicines to cure sexual diseases. For this reason women and men who were contaminated with sexual diseases were put to death. Unfortunately, because sexual promiscuity is so rampant, many innocent women become the victims of HIV/AIDS and of sexually transmitted diseases.

OBSERVATIONS AND PERSONALIZATION:

Read Numbers 25: 1-9

1. What caused the plague among the children of Israel?
2. How did Moses stop the plague?
3. How many people died in the plague?
4. How would you deal with someone with HIV or AIDS?

Read Romans: 1:21-27

1. What did the Romans think about their philosophy and lifestyle?
2. What was God's response to their attitudes?
3. What was the result of their sexual practices?
4. How does their culture compare to the culture that we live in?
5. What behaviors have you changed in your own lifestyle to protect yourself from HIV/AIDS?

REMEMBERING LYNN CHAMBERLAIN 1969 – 2004

Two years ago, I took a trip to South Africa with some of the people from my church. Among them was a beautiful young lady named Lynn Chamberlain. She was 34 years old and she owned a business and had recently married the man of her dreams. Once we arrived in South Africa she shared her testimony of how she contracted HIV from a young man she dated in college. He did not use a condom, nor did he tell Lynn that he was HIV positive. She was diagnosed with HIV a few months after their relationship ended. For the next fourteen years Lynn battled HIV, most of the time looking healthy, beautiful and full of energy. When she met her future husband, she hated to tell him that she was HIV positive – but she did. Lynn was 33 years old when they married and she was very happy. Six months after we returned from South Africa where she encouraged so many young people, Lynn was hospitalized with a lung infection. December, 20, 2004, she lost her battle with AIDS. I wish I could say that her home-going was a joyful

occasion. Perhaps for some people it was. But even though I knew that Lynn was with the Lord, I couldn't get past the pain on her husband's face and the words of my pastor as he preached her eulogy. A young girl—her mother's only child, made the wrong decision and paid for it with her life.