

Leader's Guide

PASSION
PURSUIT

What
kind of
love are
you
making?



LINDA DILLOW &
DR. JULI SLATTERY



A Pep Talk for a Brave Woman

Did you know that you are venturing where few women have been willing to go? It takes courage to lead a Bible Study, but a Bible Study on SEX??? We applaud you because it is time for God's women to know His perspective on sexual intimacy in marriage!

- It's time for Christian marriages to have God's permission to pursue passion.
- It's time for wives to ask God what He thinks about sex instead of reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*.
- It's time that counterfeit intimacy is exposed.
- It's time that women know that God can heal sexual wounds.
- It's time to kick Satan out of the bedroom.

Your willingness to lead a small group will make all this happen. Because you said "Yes" to God even though you may be scared, we want to give you as much help as we can to prepare you to lead *Passion Pursuit*.

Your Credentials, Please.

You might be wondering, "What qualifies me to lead a Bible study on sex?" Rest assured, you don't have to be a psychologist or sex therapist, nor do you need to have all the answers. You don't have to be an expert—we've done the teaching for you on the DVDs. But there are a few things we would ask of you to help you be prepared to guide women through this study.



A commitment that God's Word is the standard of truth.

We all have opinions about sex but this material is based on God's opinion.



A heart for God's women.

As you know, talking about sex is sensitive and may bring up painful or embarrassing issues. This study is about more than what is taught; it invites women to trust the Lord with their pain.



A humble spirit.

Although we have been teaching on sex for decades, we are still growing in the wisdom and freedom God gives. It's okay to let the ladies you lead know that you are still learning and growing too.



Knowledge of the material.

One woman who has lead *Passion Pursuit* put it this way:

"I am so glad that I went through *Passion Pursuit* before leading it and had the big picture of what's addressed. When a woman asked a question about pornography in session 3, I could tell her to hang on until we learned about it in chapter 7."

You may not be able to watch all the sessions and read through the workbook before starting your first session but please try to do so. At the very least, read through this overview:

Overview of *Passion Pursuit*

Chapter 1. I've Got Power

To begin our study, a wife will discover she has three areas of God-given power, each rising out of her husband's need for respect, companionship, and sexual intimacy. A wife will be asked to consider how she is using her power—to build or tear down intimacy.

Chapter 2. Me, Pursue Passion?

In Scripture, God gave us a living example of a woman who knew how to use her power: the bride in Song of Solomon. We call her the Smokin' Hot Mama. We share what we have learned from her about God's desire for a wife to pursue passion and why intimacy requires pursuit.

Chapter 3. God's Got an Opinion!

Most Christians never consider that God, the Creator, has an opinion about sex. Women will be amazed to discover three gifts of sexual intimacy hidden in the pages of Scripture: the gifts of intimate knowing, holy intimacy, and exquisite pleasure. Understanding God's opinion will encourage each wife as she pursues passion.

Chapter 4. Making Truth Stick

Women can know God's truth from Scripture but it can be "head truth" if it is not lived out by embracing God's design in their bedroom. Satan burns his lies into us with the intent to destroy and confuse God's beautiful truth.



We look specifically at five common lies:

1. It's wrong to enjoy sex too much
2. I'm not worthy of passion
3. God doesn't care about my pain
4. I'm too wounded for passion
5. I can heal myself

Chapter 5. What Kind of Love Are You Making?

Many women don't like the way God made men. In this chapter, women will discover that God knew exactly what He was doing in making men and women so different. Each difference takes you into God's laboratory of love and prompts you to ask the question, "Will I be a selfish lover or a servant lover?"

Chapter 6. Pursuing Pure Pleasure

The most pressing question Christian women ask about sex is, "What's okay for me and my husband to do in the bedroom?" We'll give practical, biblically based answers to questions about oral sex, anal sex, sex toys, and the use of pornographic materials in marriage.

Chapter 7. Exposing Counterfeit Intimacy

Satan works overtime to provide a buffet of sexual temptations that will defile your sexual relationship. In this chapter, women will address their unique temptations and discover how to recognize a dangerous path. We will also tackle how to deal with a husband's temptations with empathy and holiness, including how to work as a team to keep their marriage pure

Chapter 8. Debt-Free Intimacy

Aspects of sexuality have been “mortgaged” by events in the past. The currency of freedom is forgiveness—God's forgiveness of our sin and ours extended to others. Wives learn practical ways to make forgiveness a reality in their marriages.

Chapter 9. The Passion Priority

Sexual intimacy in marriage will be sub-par until a couple makes it a priority but—realistically—how do you do that in the midst of the demands of parenting, work, and daily life?

Chapter 10. Becoming a Smokin' Hot Mama

Women have worked for nine weeks to remove barriers to intimacy. Now it is time to learn from the Smokin' Hot Mama to be free—unrestrained in their bodies, thoughts, and imagination to pursue passion in marriage.



How to Run a PP Group

The ideal small group size is 8–12 women. At the minimum, you'll need ten, two-hour sessions to complete the study in your group. If you can, please try to add an 11th week to provide incentive to complete the 10th week of homework but, more importantly, to celebrate and share what God has done. Here is the suggested format for each meeting:

10 minutes—Icebreaker question and prayer. Each week there will be a suggested icebreaker question that you may want to use to help your group ease into conversation.

50 minutes—Guided discussion of the homework/workbook questions.

40–45 minutes—watch the video for next session.

10 minutes—Wrap-up and prayer.

(These are just suggestions. Ask God to show you the best format for your unique group.)

8 Super Important Group Guidelines

How does a small group talk about sex together? *Very sensitively and with discretion.* In order for your small group to be a safe and effective environment, ask everyone in your group to commit to these guidelines:

- 1.** Keep the focus of the study centered on God. Share what you are learning about God and His perspective on the sexual relationship or what God is personally teaching you.
- 2.** Under no circumstances should you share with others intimate details about you and your husband's sexual relationship. No one should ever be able to visualize you and your husband in bed. It would be wise to reassure your husband of your commitment to keep your sexual relationship private.
- 3.** You can share anything about yourself as a wife but you cannot share anything about your husband—unless it is positive! No negative or embarrassing comments about husbands are allowed.
- 4.** All discussions are to be kept confidential.
- 5.** Keep your focus on what changes *you* need to make, not on those your husband needs to make.
- 6.** No one will be asked to talk about anything that makes her feel uncomfortable.
- 7.** Each wife will commit to the ten-week period.
- 8.** Expect to have fun, grow, and be amazed at God and His beautiful plan for intimacy!

During Week 1 we repeat these guidelines and will ask you to print them out for your group; read them to your group in your first meeting and reinforce them along the way. One savvy group leader suggested to her ladies that they glue them to the inside of the back cover of their workbook!



Juli and Linda's Help on Running a Small Group on Sex

What do I do if ... ???

It's very possible that as you go through the study, an awkward moment or two may arise. The women in your group will look for your leadership when this happens. If you get embarrassed or uncomfortable, so will they. So, you need to anticipate and be prepared for how to handle an uncomfortable situation. Here are some of the difficulties you may come across.



Help! Dr. Ruth is in my group!

You may have a woman who wants to share her expertise with the group. If this is a continual pattern, pull her aside and say something like, "I appreciate that you have spent a lot of time learning about these things but we are really committed to staying within the boundaries of the material in this study."

 Too Quiet! You can hear a pin drop in my group.

Talking about sex can be intimidating. If the women in your group have a hard time sharing, be sure to use the icebreaker questions. It also helps to acknowledge the problem with humor by saying something like, “I know that talking about sex can be awkward, but we can’t have a discussion if I’m the only one talking. So who’s willing to be brave today?” Make sure you thank women every week for their input.

 Too Noisy! Someone in my group won’t shut up.

Duct tape might work but a better alternative is to say something like, “I’d love to hear what some of the rest of you are thinking.” If she doesn’t take the hint, you may need a one-on-one conversation about leaving space so others can share.

 Weeping! A woman breaks down crying.

Don’t be surprised if this happens. It means God is working in a woman’s heart. Perhaps the best way to handle it is to simply stop the group and gather around her to pray for her. Then check in with her privately at the end of the session and let her know that you are available to talk or pray with her if it would help.



 Oops! A woman crosses a boundary by sharing too much.

As soon as you sense a comment going in that direction, jump in by saying, “Why don’t you and I talk about that after the study is over?” Or “I’m really glad you are willing to share, but let’s be careful to keep our conversation within the guidelines we’ve talked about.” Don’t be afraid in this circumstance to gently interrupt.

 Pain! A woman shares that she was sexually abused.

Approximately one-third (or more) of women have sexual abuse in their past, so you will likely have several women in your group who can relate. Instead of making it a group therapy session, say something like, “I’m sure that many of us here can identify with the pain you are experiencing. Let’s just stop and ask God to bring His truth and healing.” Then follow-up with her after the meeting and be sure that she has the support she needs around her.

 A single woman! And she wants to join.

We’ll leave this one up to your discretion. The conversation and teaching center around marriage. However, you may have single women who really want to understand God’s perspective of sex. In our pilot study, we had a few single women who had been through difficult marriages and found *Passion Pursuit* to be a source of healing.

 I Quit! A woman wants to quit or doesn’t show up.

We recommend that you email or call a woman who has stopped attending and check in with her. It may be that she is sick or her schedule is more demanding than she anticipated. But it also may be that she has hit a roadblock with some of the material. Offer to talk and pray with her. Ask the Lord for His discernment about whether now is the right time for her to continue with *Passion Pursuit*.

Looking for more help?

We’ve developed our website (www.authenticintimacy.com) to be a safe place for you and the ladies in your group to ask questions, listen to interviews, and read articles that will go deeper into some of the topics *Passion Pursuit* addresses. We will continually be adding content—some based on your comments and requests. So contact us! We want to hear from you!

Recommended Resources

(with *Passion Pursuit* chapters cross-referenced)

A Celebration of Sex by Dr. Douglas Rosenau (chapters 2 and 3)

Affair of the Mind by Lauri Hall (chapter 7)

Dirty Girls Come Clean by Crystal Renaud (chapter 7)

Finding the Hero in Your Husband by Dr. Juli Slattery (chapter 1)

Intimacy Ignited by Dr. Joseph and Linda Dillow, Dr. Peter and Lorraine Pintus (chapters 5 and 9)

Intimate Issues by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus (chapters 3 and 6)

Love & Respect by Emerson Eggerichs (chapter 1)

No More Headaches by Dr. Juli Slattery (chapters 6 and 9)

The Adversary by Mark Bubeck (chapter 4)

The Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas (chapter 5)

The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane (chapter 4)

Total Forgiveness by R.T. Kendall (chapter 8)

What's It Like to Be Married to Me? by Linda Dillow (chapters 1 and 8)



WEEK 1

Introductory discussion, distribute workbooks, watch session I

Are you ready to encourage your women to pursue passion? Let's talk about the purpose of the small group discussion this week: it is designed to set the tone for your group throughout the study. Although you won't be talking about the workbook material yet, you are laying the groundwork to create a fun, safe environment.

Getting to Know One Another

If you are in communication with the women in your group before it starts, ask them to bring a picture of their wedding and/or family. This can be a great way for each woman to introduce herself and tell a few details like how long she's been married, etc.

Icebreaker Questions to Get the Group Going



What is your favorite thing about being married to your husband?



Why did you decide to join this study?



Have you ever been in a Bible study about the topic of sexual intimacy? Do you have any concerns or reservations?

Helping Your Group Know What to Expect

Passion Pursuit is a different kind of Bible study, so it's good to spend some time helping the women in your group get a sense of what will be discussed, how much to share, and even how much time to set aside for homework during the week. Here are some talking points for this discussion:

- Start by reading out loud the "Personal Note to You" in the front of the workbook.
- Linda and Juli are the experts on this subject. They've spent years studying it and have talked to thousands of women. You are not expected to serve as a counselor unless you're trained to do so. Your role as the leader is to guide your women through a discussion on each week's homework and to keep the group a fun and safe place for encouraging conversation.
- The homework each week is divided into five days. We highly recommend that no one should try to cram several days of homework into one day. The questions are designed to bring women to God's Word, to meditate on how His truth applies to each life, and to grow closer to God. The first four days are about intimacy with a husband and centered on the theme of the lesson. Day five is called "The Secret Place" and is about intimacy between each woman and God. Everyone should budget between 15–30 minutes for each day. Everyone will get as much out of it as they put into it.
- Each week will begin with prayer and talking about the homework from the previous week. Then everyone will watch the teaching for the next lesson.

Keeping the Group Safe and Encouraging

Stress the importance of the group guidelines, which are included again below. Please print these out for every woman in your group and go over each guideline. Tell the women that you will remind them of the guidelines regularly so that the discussion remains edifying and safe. We have also included an optional commitment to sign, which can be printed out below the guidelines or on a separate page.

8 Super Important Group Guidelines

How does a small group talk about sex together? *Very sensitively and with discretion.* In order for your small group to be a safe and effective environment, we ask you to commit to and reinforce these guidelines:

- 1.** Keep the focus of the study centered on God. Share what you are learning about God and His perspective on the sexual relationship or what God is personally teaching you.
- 2.** Under no circumstances should you share with others intimate details about you and your husband's sexual relationship. No one should ever be able to visualize you and your husband in bed. It would be wise to reassure your husband of your commitment to keep your sexual relationship private.
- 3.** You can share anything about yourself as a wife but you cannot share anything about your husband—unless it is positive! No negative or embarrassing comments about husbands are allowed.
- 4.** All discussions are to be kept confidential.
- 5.** Keep your focus on what changes *you* need to make, not on those your husband needs to make.
- 6.** No one will be asked to talk about anything that makes her feel uncomfortable.
- 7.** Each wife will commit to the ten-week period.
- 8.** Expect to have fun, grow, and be amazed at God and His beautiful plan for intimacy!



The Honor Promise

Because God brought me to this study on Passion Pursuit, I promise to honor Him and each woman in the small group by keeping everything said in the group confidential. I will share only positive things about my husband and never reveal anything that would give others a picture of our intimate oneness.

Signed: _____



An Overview of the Study

Take some time to give the women the broad strokes of what *Passion Pursuit* will cover. You can do this by going over the table of contents or sharing from the Overview included in this guide.

It's Time to Start Pursuing Passion!

The first teaching eases you into the topic of intimacy by talking about power. Here is a question to get the women thinking as they watch:



In what ways do you think you have power in your marriage?



WEEK 2

Discuss chapter 1, Watch session 2

Warming up the group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:



What is one word to describe your husband?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions

We want to highlight questions that we believe are the best to engage in discussion. Each week there will probably be more questions than you can get to, so pick and choose based on what fits best with your group. Just be aware of your pace so that you get through some material from each one of the days.

There are two powerful quotes at the top of the page 14:

A woman can make two vital mistakes that may result in the destruction of her marriage: The first is to ignore or deny her power; the second is to abuse her power.

If you treat a man as he is, he will stay as he is. If you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become that bigger and better man.



Do you feel like you can affect your husband this much?

DAY 1



Read the paraphrase talking about respect on the top of the page 15. What do you think about this definition?



Question 2 on page 15.



Question 3, page 16.



On page 17: Would anyone like to share what God showed you with these two lists we were asked to make?



Did you show respect in any new ways this week?

DAY 2



What activities do you and your husband like to do together?



Question 2, page 19.



Question 4, page 20.

-  The bottom of the page 20 says you don't become friends just because you share a house, budget, and kids. You have to choose to build a friendship with your husband. How do you do this? Do you still feel like you are friends with your husband?

DAY 3

-  What did you write for question number 1, page 22?
-  Question 4, page 23.
-  Question 6 on page 23 mentions women being tempted to use sex to retaliate when you are angry or hurt. Is this something you can relate to? Why do we do this?

DAY 4

-  We are learning that all three things our husband needs affect each other (respect, companionship, sex). The middle of page 24 says that how we use our power in one area of marriage will build or tear down every aspect of intimacy—what do you think about that?
-  Question 1, page 25.
-  Share some of the praiseworthy qualities you saw in your husband, page 26.

DAY 5

-  One leader suggested this:

“Day five I always open up to see what women felt throughout the week as they spent time with God. I usually don't ask questions about this day, but allow women to share all God put on their heart.”
-  Another leader simply asked, “What did you learn about God this week?”
-  You may want to end by asking if anyone would like to share the prayer they wrote on page 30.



The Main Takeaway

You have the power as a wife to build intimacy in your marriage. God has given you three specific power zones: respect, companionship, and sex. Let's ask God to teach us everything we need to know about our power and how to use it wisely.

Before You Press Play

We have been talking about a wife's power. Now we are switching gears to the fact that God wants YOU to pursue passion in your marriage.



WEEK 3

Discuss chapter 2, watch session 3

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ How did your husband propose to you?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

The top of page 32 says steamy sexual passion in marriage is a God-honoring pursuit. How do you feel about this?

DAY 1

♥ On page 34, Linda and Juli explained what the Song of Solomon is all about. Did you get that when you read the book for yourself?

♥ Page 35, question 5.

DAY 2

♥ Page 36, question 3 talked about the SHM building confidence in her husband. What do you think about doing this in your marriage?

♥ Question 4 is saying the SHM used her words to entice her husband sexually. Why would our husbands like this?

♥ Would anyone like to share their prayer from 6d, page 37?

DAY 3

♥ Linda and Juli listed five words about the SHM. Did any of these stand out to you?

♥ Page 40, question 2.

♥ The last paragraph in Day 3 (page 41) asked if we feel as though we have permission. What do you think about this?

DAY 4

♥ Do you think there is ever a case in which God does NOT give permission for sexual pleasure in a Christian marriage? Why or why not?

 Page 43, question 6.

 How does baggage from the past keep us from accepting our permission slip?

DAY 5

 Why do you think it is important to take a step of faith based on what you've learned this week?



The Main Takeaway

God created sexual pleasure for a husband and wife to enjoy. He gives you permission to pursue passion in your marriage!

Before You Press Play

One of the barriers to giving yourself permission to pursue passion is not having God's perspective on sex. Let's watch Linda and Juli share what the Bible says about God's opinion.



WEEK 4

Discuss chapter 3, Watch session 4

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ What famous person does your husband remind you of?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

Were you surprised to read about some of the advice and perspectives from church leaders in the past?

DAY 1

♥ What did you think about questions 1–4 on page 50? What did you learn about sex? How has that impacted your marriage and your current view of sex?

DAY 2

♥ In the session, Juli and Linda talked about *yada*—the idea of really knowing our husbands. What do you think about the concept of *yada*?

♥ Question 2, page 53 talked about the SHM being able to be known by her husband. Why is it important that you let yourself be known by your husband? Why might this be difficult?

♥ Questions 3–4—what excites you and scares you about *yada*?

DAY 3

♥ Day 3 opens with a powerful quote by John Piper (page 54). Any thoughts on that quote?

♥ Why is it difficult to wrap our minds around the concept that sex is a holy metaphor?

♥ Would anyone like to share the letter you wrote to a young bride (page 56)?

♥ Question 5, page 57.

DAY 4

♥ The emphasis of Day 4 is that God wants sex to feel good. He created the idea of sex and pleasure. Do you think most wives understand this?

♥ Question 3, page 59.

DAY 5



Would anyone like to share what God taught you specifically this week in your time with Him?

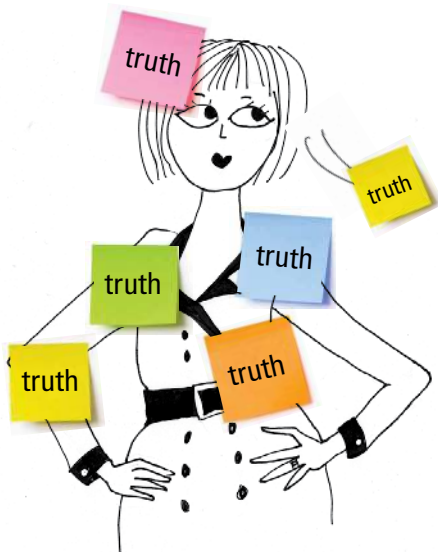


The Main Takeaway

God has a definite opinion about sex written in His Word. He wants you to open the gifts of Intimate Knowing, Holy Intimacy, and Exquisite Pleasure.

Before You Press Play

You can hear God's opinion about sex and it still may not "stick." Why? One of the reasons is that we have an enemy who feeds us lies. This session might seem out of the box but it is key to understanding how to experience God's truth in your marriage.



WEEK 5

Discuss chapter 4, Watch session 5

Note: Some group leaders have reported that this week's homework was difficult for the women to discuss. Satan just doesn't often seem real. The idea that he plays a role in a woman's marriage problems might seem like a stretch. Ask the Lord to pave the way for your discussion on this topic.

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:



I'm really attracted to my husband when he . . .

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

Have you heard before that Satan actively sets out to destroy intimacy in marriage?
What do you think about this concept?

Juli and Linda shared five lies in the session we watched last week. Did any of these lies connect with you?
Have you heard any lies as you have gone through this study?

DAY 1



Questions 1 and 2, page 65. Did anything stand out to you here about Satan or how he is described?



Question 4, page 66.

DAY 2



On page 67, it says we must be aware that Satan's lies can sound friendly and even more comfortable than the truth. Can you relate to this?



Question 3, p. 68.



Question 4, page 69.

DAY 3



Page 70 says, "The core of every lie he whispers and every truth he distorts is the mother of all lies. Here it is: God is not trustworthy."



Do you agree with this statement about Satan's ultimate agenda? Why or why not?



What lies has Satan told you about God's trustworthiness?

DAY 4



Question 2, page 73.



What are the three steps suggested to fight on pages 73–74? Have any of you been able to use these steps in confronting lies in your life?



Question 4, page 75.

DAY 5



Would anyone like to share what God taught you specifically this week in your time with Him?



The Main Takeaway

Reclaiming sexual intimacy in marriage may involve a spiritual battle. God wants to equip you to fight the enemy's lies with His truth.

Before You Press Play

Next, Linda and Juli are going to teach on a very practical way to redeem sexuality in your marriage. Get ready to have some fun as we learn about selfish vs. servant lovers.



WEEK 6

Discuss chapter 5, Watch session 6

Take Note: For the next three weeks, we will be discussing topics that are sexual and personal in nature. So, it's a good time to review the group guidelines and remind the women what kind of things are okay to share and what should remain private.

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ In what ways are you and your husband opposites?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

On page 79, it says, "Sexual differences between you and your husband can be a powerful source of unity." What is your initial response to this? *"Not at our house!" "Get real!" "Let me think . . ."*

DAY 1

♥ Did anything from the chart on page 80 jump out at you?

♥ Question 1, page 81.

♥ Question 4, page 82.

♥ Question 7, page 83. How do we really do this?

DAY 2

♥ Do you agree that many (okay most) women see female sexuality as "better" than male sexuality? Why is this wrong thinking?

♥ Question 2, page 84.

♥ Question 4, page 85.

DAY 3

♥ Question 1, page 86.

♥ Did anything jump out at you from page 87?

♥ Question 5, page 89. Did anyone do this? Without sharing details, how did your husband respond?

DAY 4



Question 2, page 90. Does this surprise you?



The bottom of page 90 talks about the importance of our husband's feeling competent as a "hero in bed. His own pleasure will be short-lived and superficial if you are not also pleased." What do you think about that? True? Not true?



Question 3, page 91.



Question 5, page 93.

DAY 5



Did you learn anything new about God this week?



The Main Takeaway

Sex in your marriage is a test of your love. Every difference and struggle presents a choice to be a servant or selfish lover.

Before You Press Play

Get ready for a very frank discussion about what's okay and not okay in the bedroom!



WEEK 7

Discuss chapter 6, Watch session 7

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ What is something your husband does around the house that you really appreciate?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme verse.

DAY 1

♥ The first reason for sexual boundaries is that God wants to keep us from pain. What do you think about that?

♥ Question 2, page 98

♥ Question 3, page 99—Did anything stand out to you as you looked at this Scripture?

♥ Question 5, page 100

DAY 2

♥ Look at the list on pages 101–02. Did anything surprise you about this list? What did you think about it?

♥ Question 1, page 102.

♥ Question 2, page 103.

♥ Question 4, page 103.

DAY 3

♥ What do you think about the 3 questions Linda and Juli recommend that you ask?

♥ What do you think about the quote from Dr. Lewis Smedes on the top of page 107?

DAY 4

♥ Explain the difference between violating your comfort and violating your conscience. Why is this an important distinction?

♥ Why is communication about sex so critical to discerning right and wrong in the bedroom? How have you communicated to your husband about what you are learning through *Passion Pursuit*?

♥ Question 5, page 111.

DAY 5



What is something practical that you can do to seek God's wisdom for sexual intimacy in your marriage?



Pray together asking God to give each woman His wisdom.



The Main Takeaway

God's Word and wisdom can guide you in the choices and decisions you make about sexuality. His guidelines are ultimately intended to bring freedom and pleasure.

Before You Press Play

This session may be critical for marriages in your group. It addresses some difficult issues concerning both husbands and wives in areas of temptation, so it would be great to pray together for God's wisdom and comfort "before you press play."



WEEK 8

Discuss chapter 7, Watch session 8

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ What is one thing your husband does that always makes you laugh?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

What do you think about this statement from page 116? “Every man and woman will someday, somehow experience the powerful temptation to be unfaithful emotionally or sexually in his or her marriage.”

DAY 1

- ♥ Juli and Linda say that temptations often provide a “shortcut” to intimacy. What do you think they mean by that?
- ♥ On page 119, Linda and Juli say, “The activation of temptation is when we *choose* to step into sin with our lingering thoughts and actions.” Why do you think we choose this?
- ♥ What is the final step of temptation? Do you believe this?

DAY 2

- ♥ Linda and Juli walked us through the ways of escape. What do you think about these four steps (Have a list of I wills, Tell a friend, Flee, Keep watching and Keep praying)?
- ♥ Question 4, page 122. Would anyone like to share from their list of “I wills”?

DAY 3

- ♥ Question 1, page 125.
- ♥ Question 3, page 125–126. Did anything from these verses stand out to you?
- ♥ Question 5, page 127. What did you think about communicating this to your husband?
- ♥ Question 7, page 128.

DAY 4

- ♥ On page 129, Linda and Juli say that Satan can use things like pornography to put your spouse in the position of being the enemy or problem. Why is that so dangerous?



What do you think is difficult about “working together as a team” in fighting temptation? What step could you take to begin doing this?



Why is it important to play “offense” as well as “defense”?

DAY 5



Would anyone like to share what God taught you specifically this week in your time with Him?



The Main Takeaway

Being tempted is a normal part of marriage. You have to intentionally fight temptation individually and as a team.

Before You Press Play

The past few sessions may have stirred up some difficult things in the hearts of the women in the group. This week’s teaching is critical to helping you know how to both receive and offer forgiveness.



WEEK 9

Discuss chapter 8, Watch session 9

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:

♥ Name two things you and your husband have in common.

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

Why do you think Linda and Juli asked us to take an entire week to study forgiveness? How does forgiveness relate to pursuing passion?

DAY 1

♥ Question 2b, page 138.

♥ How did you relate to the woman in Luke 7? What did God teach you through her story?

DAY 2

♥ Page 141 says, “Sometimes a woman knows God has forgiven her, but she just can’t forgive herself. Freedom is not her daily delight.” Does anyone struggle with this? Any thoughts on forgiving ourselves?

♥ Question 2, page 142.

♥ Would you like to share your thoughts on questions 3 and 4, page 142?

♥ What role do you think pride plays in our unwillingness to forgive ourselves? (bottom of page 142).

DAY 3

♥ Pages 145–146 share about Beth’s journey. She has to say more than “I forgive you,” but had to give up the power to remember. How could you help a friend walk through this?

♥ The bottom of page 146 discusses bringing up past issues when fighting with your spouse. In disagreements, do you get “historical”? What have you learned about the danger of doing this?

♥ Question 3, page 148.

DAY 4

♥ Question 2, page 149.

♥ Question 6, page 150–151. Did you choose one of these? Is someone willing to share what happened?

DAY 5



What did you learn about God this week?



The Main Takeaway

Forgiveness paves the way for authentic intimacy with God and with your husband.

Before You Press Play

One of the greatest barriers to great sex is often finding the time, energy, and willingness to pursue passion. In this session, Linda and Juli will help us make passion a priority in everyday life.



WEEK 10

Discuss chapter 9, Watch session 10

Warming Up the Group

Open with prayer and an icebreaker question:



What is the most creative date you and your husband have ever been on?

Have someone read the Theme and Theme Verse.

Suggested Questions:

What did you think about the Passion Priority quiz (pages 154–155)?

DAY 1



Page 154: “The desire for intimacy is a result of making it a priority, not the other way around.”
What do you think about this statement?



Question 2, page 156.



Question 3, page 157.



Question 5, page 157.

DAY 2



This section talked about our mind being the most important sexual organ.
What do you think about that?



Page 159: Toward the top of the page, it talks about renewing your mind by memorizing God's Word.
How have you tried to renew your mind?



Question 3, page 160.

DAY 3



Question 1, page 161.



The top of page 162 talks about the SHM believing the compliments of her husband. Why would accepting our husband's compliments be so important?



Bottom of page 162: “It's not what you have but what you do with what you have.” How could it help a friend if you explained this to her?

DAY 4



This day (and the video) talked about really giving our bodies as gifts. What do you think about this?



The top of page 164 talks about not having to have the perfect body. Too much focus on physical appearance is rooted in pride and insecurity, not in confident servanthood. Do you think that's true?



Question 5, page 165.

DAY 5



Why do you think giving thanks to God can sometimes be viewed as a sacrifice? Have you ever felt this way?

ADDITIONAL DAY

(This week had an extra day specifically addressing women who want passion more than their husbands do. Most likely, you have at least one woman who fits in this category. Question 3 on page 169 may be a way of bringing up the topic without asking women to be too vulnerable.)



The Main Takeaway

Great sex never just happens but must be pursued by making it a priority throughout the various challenges of life together.

Before You Press Play

Time to have some fun learning to become a Smokin' Hot Mama! Remind the women that the homework in week 10 is very personal and designed to be shared with their husbands. We hope that your women can come back for an additional week 11 for a time of celebration and reflection.

Optional Week 11—Celebration and Reflection

Because the homework for week 10 is designed to be shared with a husband and not in group and there is no video to watch, this week is optional. Our pilot groups found different ways to celebrate their time throughout the course. Here are a few ideas to incorporate:

1. Share a meal together.
2. Give your women a few mementos like some ribbon, a deck of playing cards, or a food item, and tell them to use their creativity at home.
3. Ask each woman to write a paragraph about what she learned; she may or may not choose to share her thoughts with the group.
4. Spend time thanking and praising God for specific ways that He worked through the study.

We Hope This Isn't Goodbye!

Just because your group finished the *Passion Pursuit* study, we don't want to lose touch with you or the women in your group. Authentic Intimacy will continue to develop resources and a community for women. Connect with us through our website (www.authenticintimacy.com), Facebook, and Twitter (@AuthenticIntmcy). There you will find radio features, a podcast, a blog, and up-to-date information on what is next. We'd also love to hear from you about your experience leading and/or studying *Passion Pursuit*!

Thank you, brave woman, for your effort and willingness to bring God's healing truth to others!

