

May 31, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“When a Young Man Does Not Control Himself” – Exodus 22:16-20

Questions for Younger Ones (ages 5-18) to Answer from the Text:

1. What sin does a man commit in Exodus 22:16?
2. What does it mean that the woman is not betrothed (v. 16a)?
3. When a man committed this sin, what was he required to do (v. 16b)?
4. What was a bride-price?
5. What option did the father of the woman have in such a situation (v. 17a)?
6. If the father exercised this option, what was the man still required to do (v. 17b)?
7. What was a sorceress (v. 18)?
8. What was to happen to a sorceress in Israel (v. 18)?
9. What happened to the person in Israel who engaged in sexual relations with an animal (v. 19)?
10. If someone in Israel offered sacrifices to another god than the LORD Yahweh, what was to happen to them (v. 20)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

11. What does it mean to “seduce” and “be seduced”?
12. Why is the seduction of a young woman by a man such a serious offense?
13. In Israel, the girl’s parents (particularly her father) had great authority over the marriage prospects for their daughter. Should that still be true in today’s culture? Why or why not?
14. To which of the Ten Commandments does Exodus 22:16 apply?
15. How are premarital relations a breach of God’s covenant?
16. Are unbelievers required to adhere to God’s standards for sexuality when they are not in covenant with Him? Why or why not?
17. How can parents teach and instill within their children a strong Biblical ethic on sexuality when the culture in which we live is so militantly antithetical to purity before marriage and faithfulness during marriage?
18. What are some of the attitudes and practices that Christian young people have toward sexuality? For some research (August 2019) on this question, see <https://ifstudies.org/ifs-admin/resources/final-ifsresearchbrief-ayers-evangelicalsandsex8819.pdf>.
19. What should a Christian young man do if the father of the young woman he wants to marry does not approve?
20. How should we handle our sexual failings and the sexual failings of others?