

# Questions and Family Activities



## Comprehension Questions:

What did Alexander's mom receive? (Flowers)

Who did Alexander think had given his mom flowers? (Another man besides his dad) How did this make Alexander feel? (Upset) Who were the flowers really from? (Alexander's dad)

What were Elaine and Edgar doing? (Getting married) What happened to Elaine? (She got sick) What was making Elaine sick? (The roses)

What was the Erodian selling? (Marriage roses) What was the problem with the roses he was selling? (They didn't last and were making the Inlanders sick)

What are a person's roots? (Family, starting with a husband and wife)

## Discussion Questions:

- What does "chastity" mean? (one definition: saving the expressions of a special kind of emotional and physical connection for a special person at a special time)
- What does "fidelity" mean? What does it mean to "be true" to someone? (one definition: a special kind of love and loyalty between two marriage partners who've decided to share their lives and reserve certain kinds of connections just for each other)
- Are there some things that are more special when we do them just at a certain time or just with certain people? (examples – Christmas treats, birthday celebrations, specific family traditions, kisses and hugs)
- How would you feel if you thought your mom or dad was spending lots of time with or kissing or hugging a man or a woman they weren't married to? Why do you think you'd feel that way?
- Is kissing and hugging and being affectionate a good thing or a bad thing? Are there certain situations when they can be good and other situations when they can be bad?
- What are some actions we should save for a special person and/or a special time?
- What are the dangers involved in these actions when the time and the person is not right? Like the marriage roses given out at the wrong time by the wrong person, can certain actions at the wrong time make you sick (in body or emotionally) and make the action less special and the relationship less long-lasting?



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## Scenarios:

Let's say you're a girl in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and a boy in your class keeps writing you notes and telling everyone you're his girlfriend. He's pretty cute and popular. Your friend tells you she thinks it's cool that you have a boyfriend. What do you say? What if the boy asks you to kiss him on the playground one day? What do you say?

Let's say you're a boy who's fourteen and there's this very cute, slightly older girl with a locker right by yours who invites you to a party at her house. She tells you her parents will be out of town and that there's a certain closet under her stairs where everyone will be playing a great game called "Seven Minutes in Heaven." What do you do?

Let's say your friends at school are talking about sex. They all act like they totally know what they're talking about but some of the things they're saying sound sort of strange to you. What do you do?

Let's say you're sixteen and you're a girl on a date with a boy you really like. You've been hanging out with him at school and on the weekends for quite a while – in fact, you've started calling each other "boyfriend" and "girlfriend." On this particular date, you're watching a movie in the basement of his house and he puts his arm around you which feels nice. Then he starts kissing you which is also nice. Then his hands start to wander around. What do you do?

## Activity Ideas:

- **Younger Children – Openness about the Body:** Talk about how wonderful our bodies are. Talk about the muscles and the bones, about how bodies grow and get stronger, about how wounds heal, and about how both male and female bodies are beautiful and miraculous. Tell them that when they're ready, you'll be explaining all about why boys and girls have different parts.
- **Elementary-Age Children - "The Talk":** Discuss what you'd like to teach your children about chastity at different ages. For children under age 8, a simple discussion about how special it is to save serious kisses and special hugs for the one man or woman you love the most may be enough. For children 8 and up, you'll likely want to help them understand how these acts of affection are connected to procreation and special emotional connections that are best when they happen in marriage. This month may be a great time to have discussions with children who you think are ready for "the talk" and to have follow-up discussions with children who've already had "the talk" but need the chance to ask questions and hear further information. For concrete ideas and talking points, you can enjoy the book, *How to Talk to your Kids About Sex* by Richard and Linda Eyre at Eyre's Free Books ([eyresfreebooks.com](http://eyresfreebooks.com)).
- **Older Children – Reasons for Sex:** This discussion can happen quite comfortably at the close of a movie or TV show you've watched together. You can ask your older children (who you've already had "the talk" with) why they think people choose to have sex. In general, there seem to be 7 reasons: 1. Experimentation (wondering what it's like); 2. Self-gratification (it feels good); 3. Ego (to prove you can); 4. Acceptance (to be cool or to make the person like you more); 5. Kindness (you really care about the other person and want to make the other person feel good); 6. Connection, commitment and true love (a person



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wants to feel really connected with another person and express his or her love and commitment in a deep way); 7. Desire to have a baby. Talk together about which reasons feel like “good” reasons and why. Talk about how the first 5 reasons can often leave at least one of the parties feeling guilty, used or selfish. Talk about how some things in life are just much better when saved for a certain time and person.

- **Family – Discussions of Media:** This month, whenever you watch a TV show or movie together, pause it or take time at the end to talk about the issues of fidelity or chastity that arise. Even G and PG-rated shows offer opportunities to talk about whether people in relationships are saving special things for the right time and right person (chastity) and being true to each other (showing fidelity), whether people are behaving in ways that seem appropriate or inappropriate, etc.
- **Parents – Example:** This month, make your example of fidelity as obvious and noticeable as possible. Show physical affection to your spouse frequently. Talk about how much you love each other. Talk about how you only talk about certain things and do certain things with each other.
- **Family – Love Stories:** Look at photos from your dating years, engagement, and wedding with your children. Share stories and talk about how you fell in love. Talk about how you knew you should marry each other. Talk about how special it is to have some things you share just with each other.
- **Family – The Beauty of a Family:** Look at pictures of your family when your children were small. Talk about how happy and excited you were when you found out you were expecting each child and how wonderful it is to have children and be in a family. Talk about how many children have different family situations – some of them are hard situations for various reasons. Talk about what you’re grateful about concerning your family situation.



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