



# Small group discussion questions November 2014

## In the flesh, part one: Sex and the Bible Carla Grosch-Miller (p28)

In her article, Carla offers a list of Bible passages that are related to sex, many quite long. If possible, give a passage to each person to read beforehand, so that when you meet together you can all report on what you have read. Alternatively, you can divide some of the shorter passages between you during the meeting.

1. The first paragraph of “Sex and the Bible” describes a difference of opinion about the relationship between “Christian family values” and the Bible’s sexual ethics. What are Christian family values? Are they a good interpretation of what the Bible teaches?
2. The books of the Bible, Carla says, “came to us through particular human beings whose understanding and perceptions were shaped by their culture”. What difference does this make to way you read the Bible’s teaching on sex and gender?
3. Share with the group the passages you have read before the session, or read them now. For each one, discuss the following questions:
  - I. What does the passage say?
  - II. What are the writer’s assumptions about sex and gender?
  - III. How different is the writer’s assumptions and declarations to your own point of view?
  - IV. What might life have been like back then?
  - V. How do you feel about what you read? Is it challenging? Uncomfortable? Reassuring? Dislikeable? Valuable?
  - VI. Should what you read here shape the way you live today?
  - VII. How do the different passages you read relate to each other? Do they contrast conflict or confirm? Do they shed light on each other, or pull in different directions?

