Small Group Discussion Questions

Drawn from "Sex and the Bible," A Sermon on Deuteronomy 22:13-22, 23:17-18

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Presbyterian Church – Morning Service

September 13, 2026

1. The sermon text is largely about what happens during a couple's betrothal. If you are married, talk about the time when you and your spouse were engaged. What were the high and low points? If you have a memorable engagement story, please share.

2. Look again at verse 20 and discuss the "evidence of virginity." In your opinion, which of the proposals outlined in the sermon makes the most sense of this passage, and what difference does each alternative interpretation make?

3. Look again at verse 21: Why does the law specify that the men of "**her** city" should be the ones to stone her if she is found guilty? What does this imply about protections for women, presumption of guilt, and due process?

4. Look again at the reference to 100 shekels of silver in verse 19. Why is the husband required to pay this fine *to the* ***father*** *of the bride* when he is also required to ***remain married*** to her?

5. You are having a conversation about the sermon text with a curious skeptic. She says, "This section of Deuteronomy proves my point that the Bible is not just outdated and backwards, but downright immoral. This passage is misogynistic, unjust, oppressive, and sexually-repressed." How would you respond? In your answer, use some of the specific points from Steven's sermon.

6. This passage calls for the death penalty in cases of adultery. In your opinion, should adultery still be considered a crime in **our** time and place, or was this sanction unique to the circumstances of Israel? If it should still be considered criminal, what should the punishment be? Explain and prove your answer with Biblical principles.

7. You are talking with an unbeliever who is curious about the Christian faith. He is currently living with his girlfriend. He says, "I don't understand what's wrong with two consulting adults living together and having sex. We love each other. We don't need a piece of paper (i.e. a marriage certificate) to legitimize our love. All that matters is how we feel about each other." How would you respond?

8. In the sermon Pastor Nicoletti critiqued the world's sexual ethic, arguing that it results in our sexuality being "fragmented or separated from the rest of us." In your own words, what do you think he meant by this? In your own life and in the world around you, where do you see examples of this?

9. What does it look like for the church to provide a strong, attractive alternative to the world's sexual ethic? Bonus points if you can think of positive, real-life examples.