At first glance, the Bible may seem like the perfect book for young children to read. Visit any children’s literature section and see the myriads of storybooks on creation, Noah, and the Christmas story. But most children’s books dance around the awkwardness of Adam and Eve’s nakedness, the mysterious episode involving nakedness at the end of Noah’s narrative, and the innuendo of sexual scandal in the Christmas story. In other words, the Bible tells it like it is, especially in the area of sexuality; how comfortable are we with it?

Why does the Bible do this? How do we explain what a harlot is in the narratives of Rahab, Solomon, Judah, Samson, and in the book of Revelation? In one way, sexuality is used as a motif to explain the depravity of humanity. It provides a backdrop of the evils that unfortunately exist and that God has to save us from. But in another manner, God uses human sexuality as a motif for His prophetic illustrations. Intimacy and pleasure connote an intense close relationship that, when betrayed, broken, or fragmented, results in the shattering of God’s heart.

The most romantic relationship in Scripture is between Yahweh and Israel. The only caveat in this relationship is that the female protagonist (that would be His people—us) struggles to remain faithful. These dynamics are portrayed in the most vivid and graphic of narratives, especially in Hosea and Ezekiel 16. They shockingly reveal the inner core of God: these nearly sensual accounts are not some form of erotic literature, but rather prophetic utterances of the most sobering kind.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Ezekiel 16. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How would you have responded to God’s instruction to Hosea in chapter 3:1–5?

How have followers confused revival and transformation with sacrifice and offerings?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this chapter? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusion do you find?

How does sexual promiscuity provide the best context for God’s remembrance of His covenant?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex12-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Ephesians 5:21–33
Hosea 1–3; 6:1-6
Ezekiel 23:1–49
1 Peter 2:9, 10
Isaiah 54:5–8

What other narratives come to mind in connection with the promiscuity of God’s people?

Review your memorized verse from Ezekiel 16.
How do you see God in each of the biblical definitions of love?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Ezekiel 16 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex12-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are you personally convicted of in your public behavior?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex12-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Which other portions of Scripture have adult-only material and why is it there?

Why does God use sexual violation as the context to convey His perspective with human rebellion?

Since our God is a God of passionate love, what effects does this have on how we view humanity and ourselves?

How does believing in this type of God affect our relationships with others?

How do we remember to remember?

How can we get more “and” thinking rather than “either/or” thinking?

How has this deepened your understanding of God and understanding of yourself as a creation of God?