Taking It Home:

- In the recent series on discovering the will of God, we saw how sexual purity is a defining path in pursuing God’s will. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. Are there areas in your life where you need to get back on the path of obedience? 1 John 1:9 reminds us that God forgives and restores those who turn to Him.

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:18 and 10:13 so that when you are tempted you can respond well to sexually immoral thoughts.

- Have you ever been tempted to call evil good or good evil? These verses help guide us in responding to evil as Jesus taught: Proverbs 17:15; Isaiah 5:20; Matthew 6:22-23; Romans 12:9; 2 Timothy 3; 1 Peter 3; 1 John 2:15-17.

- How can you show hospitality and generous Christian love to those in your realm of influence who are caught in a pattern of allowing their hunger to forfeit God’s best? Is there someone who comes to mind this week who you can pray for and reach out to?

Recommended Resources:

- No Perfect People Allowed by John Burke
- Sex for Christians: The Limits and Liberties of Sexual Living by Lewis B. Smedes
- Authentic Human Sexuality: An Integrated Christian Approach by Judith K. and Jack O. Balswick

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.
Growth Group Homework
For the week of August 5, 2012
Hebrews 12:16; Genesis 25: 29-34

Quick Review: This week we looked at the story of Esau as recorded in Genesis 25 and Hebrew 12. We saw how Esau forfeited the very thing that defined him as a man for a temporary satisfaction. Esau’s hunger drove him to exchange God’s best for a bowl of soup. His story serves as a template for how many of us allow our hunger to forfeit God’s best in our lives.

My Story:
• Pastor Matthew mentioned a number of ironies in how Christians respond to homosexual behavior, which of these do you find the easiest to identify with?

Growing Deeper:
• Read Genesis 1 & 2. What do you notice about the uniqueness of male and female?

• Reflect and summarize in your own words what God has to say about those who are sexually immoral in these passages: 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 12:16; 13:4; Revelation 17:5; 21:8; 22:15.

• What is the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:11 for those who have practiced immoral behaviors but are now trusting Christ?

• In John 4, Jesus responds to a sexually promiscuous woman. Describe the pattern you see in Jesus’ response.

• How do we engage those who claim to follow Jesus and practice homosexuality? Allow Galatians 6 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 to guide you in formulating your response.