

JESUS,

GENDER &

SEXUALITY

**Small Group
Discussion Guide**

Session 1: Made and loved by God

1. As Christians, what do you think are the biggest issues we need to grapple with in the areas of gender and sexuality?
2. If a child, grandchild, parent, family member or friend told you they were gay or trans, what do you think would be the best first response?
3. If someone close to you asked you, 'What does God think about LGBTQ+ people?' what would you say?
4. From Leigh's sermon on Sunday: what stood out or challenged you?

*In this series we're going to watch several videos, many of which come from the [Christian Sexuality course](#) produced by [the Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender](#). **Note:** this is an American course made for youth/young adults, and this comes across in the language and tone! (You might need to practise using the word "y'all"!)). However, the message is well presented and the principles are relevant and important for all of us.*



Watch: Authority of God & Scripture [19 mins]

<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard> > For Leaders > Session 2

(Use account details provided by Leigh)

5. What is one thing that you liked and didn't like about this video?

6. Who are your authorities/influences in your life that compete with God?
Be honest!

7. How do you feel about God being the ultimate authority for your life?
Read Isaiah 40:6-31 for some Biblical inspiration!

8. What reasons did the video give for having Jesus as our authority?
Share some Bible passages that back-up these reasons. Colossians 1:15-23 gives a few!

9. What are some areas of your life where you are consciously sitting under Jesus' authority?



Watch: 'Dear Church: I'm Gay' [20 minutes]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O_0AIEstOU

10. In light of this video, what's a step you can take so that LGBTQ people around you are more comfortable to share with you?

Notes & Prayer Points

Session 2: Sex and Marriage

1. Look around your group. Is everyone here married? Is everyone here single? Is it a mixture? Recognise that group members approach this topic from a range of perspectives including good and bad experiences of marriage.
2. From Tom's sermon on Sunday: What stood out or challenged you?



If your group is largely in the “not yet married” category, **Watch: ‘Sex and Marriage’** [20 minutes] and discuss. <https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard> > For Leaders > Session 4 (Use account details provided by Leigh)



Session 4

Read Matthew 19:1-12: Jesus and the Pharisees on Marriage

3. The Pharisees are asking Jesus a very specific question. What is it?
4. According to Jesus, what is the origin of marriage? Who defined it?
5. According to Jesus, when a man and woman get married, what results?

6. How does the Pharisees' specific question help us understand verse 9 more carefully? Exactly what scenario is Jesus talking about?

7. How do the disciples react to Jesus' teaching? Why might they feel this way?

8. How does Jesus' response in verses 11-12 help us to avoid a mistaken view of marriage?

Read Matthew 22:23-33: Jesus and the Sadducees on Marriage

The Sadducees considered the resurrection of the dead a ridiculous idea, and constructed an imaginary scenario which they think will prove their point.

9. In response to the Sadducees' challenge, what point does Jesus make about marriage? What's your reaction to this?

Jesus dismissed the Sadducees' challenge by saying that at the resurrection people will not marry each other. But it is not quite true to say there is no marriage at all when God's kingdom comes...

Read Rev 19:6-9, a picture of the coming of God's kingdom

10. There is one ultimate marriage that lasts forever. Who is involved?

11. What kind of tone is this marriage presented in?

Today, Christians live in the 'overlap of the ages'. We still inhabit the structures of the first creation, but we know that in Jesus' resurrection the new creation has begun, and we live today in anticipation of God's coming kingdom.

Read Eph 5:21-33

12. What does this passage say about the relationship between Jesus and his church?

13. Verse 31 quotes from Genesis 2:24, which is the original explanation of marriage. According to Paul, what is Genesis 2:24 ultimately referring to?

14. If marriage in this age is a signpost to the marriage of Jesus with his church, how does that impact our **mindset** and our **behaviour**
 1. as unmarried people?

 2. as husbands or wives?

If your group is largely in the "not yet married" category,

Watch: 'Following Jesus in our sexualized world'

[20 minutes] and discuss.

<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard> > For Leaders > Session 12

(Use account details provided by Leigh)



Session 12

Otherwise, it could be helpful for your group to watch and discuss '**Interview With Family Therapist**

Alex Lerza' which discusses sexual discipleship, pornography, sex addiction, parenting and related topics. <https://youtu.be/JwrYlQonEQ?t=197> (no login required) [44 minutes total, but you could stop at 22:58]



Notes & Prayer Points

Session 3: Intimacy and Singleness

1. Look around your group. Is everyone here single? Is everyone here married? Is it a mixture? Recognise that group members approach this topic from a range of experiences.
2. Everyone is born single, and a majority of people will die single. Singleness takes many forms. List all the circumstances and scenarios you can think of that involve singleness.
3. From Viv's sermon on Sunday: What stood out or challenged you?

**Watch: Panel Discussion from Single-Minded Conference 2018
Ruth, Chris, Laura and Justin [13 minutes]**



<https://www.singleminded.community/talks?wix-vod-video-id=b80e26752c144666ba60ba2da0043ea4&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-kwoy3uww>
(Registration or password required)

4. What did you find most notable in this discussion?

In the video Justin said "I used to listen to talks where they just said 'Marriage is good, marriage is what you should have', and just intuitively know: 'that's rubbish!'". He mentioned 1 Corinthians 7, a key New Testament passage on the topic. This chapter comes in the midst of a complex debate between the apostle

Paul and the sexually messed-up church in Corinth, and we shouldn't pluck out verses and treat them as timeless law. However, amidst Paul's pastoral advice to his readers we can glean some valuable insights.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:24-38

5. What sombre statement about marriage does he make?
6. What benefits of singleness does he mention? (verses 32-34)
7. What general principle is Paul portraying in verses 29-31? How does this relate to the value of marriage vs singleness?

In the video Chris said "Men need the love of other men. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that confuses love and sex a lot. The Bible speaks in profound terms about the love between men". He mentioned the Old Testament example of David and Jonathan which we read about in 1 Samuel in the Old Testament. Jonathan was the son Saul, reigning King of Israel. David was a shepherd boy who had been quietly anointed to be the next king. Over time, Saul felt threatened by David and at various times tried to kill him. But Jonathan remained a loyal friend despite knowing that David would take the throne instead of him.

Read the following passages that mention David and Jonathan's friendship:

- 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - 1 Samuel 20:12-17
 - 1 Samuel 19:1-7
 - 1 Samuel 20:41-42¹
8. How would you summarise the David-Jonathan relationship? Are there key phrases from these passages?

¹ Further reading:

<https://www.psephizo.com/biblical-studies/were-jonathan-and-david-in-a-gay-relationship/>

9. How does the David-Jonathan relationship compare to the Jonathan-Saul relationship?



Watch: Tracey's Story [3 minutes 30 sec]

<https://www.livingout.org/resources/stories/10/tracey> (No login required)

10. What made Tracey attracted to church on her first visits?
11. How did Tracey describe her current experience of church?
12. If you are a single person, has your experience of church been like Tracey's? How?
13. If you're not single, do you think All Saints welcomes and values single people like this?

Read the following passages that deal with church-family relationships:

- Luke 8:19-21
- Mark 10:28-30
- Luke 14:25-27
- 1 John 3:14-18

14. Do these passages challenge your current thinking on church-family relationships vs biological-family relationships?
15. What are some things that you personally can do to make All Saints a church where more people have an experience like Tracey's?

Notes & Prayer Points

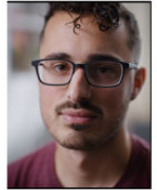
Session 4: Same-sex Sexuality

1. From Anton's sermon on Sunday: what stood out or challenged you?



Watch: 'Same-sex Sexuality' [20 mins]

<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard> > For Leaders > Session 7



Session 7

And watch one of these:

'Dear Church: I'm Gay' [20 mins]

(if you didn't watch it in week 1)

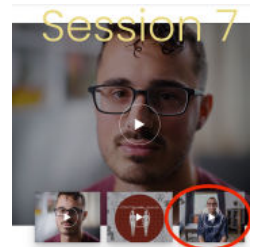
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O_0AIEstOU



'Greg Coles' Story'

<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard>

> For Leaders > Session 7 > click on the third video underneath



2. What did you find helpful about the video(s) that you chose to watch?

3. In what areas of your life or your struggles has Jesus met you with love first? And then, how did you begin to change as a response to that love?

4. Do you know what the letters in LGBTQIA stand for?

L	
G	
B	
T	

Q	
I	
A	

5. From the video: do passages like Romans 1:26-27 mean that God is against gay people?
6. What makes it harder or easier for LGBTQ people, and maybe Christians specifically, to come out to others?
7. Do we need to be heterosexual to come to Jesus and be more like Christ? Galatians 5:22-26 might help.
8. What gospel truths would you lead with in walking alongside someone who is attracted to the same-sex?
9. How is the **ATTRACTION I TEMPTATION II LUST I BEHAVIOUR** paradigm helpful when thinking about sin in general, but specifically sexual sins?

Notes & Prayer Points

Session 5: Gender

1. From Leigh's sermon on Sunday: What stood out or challenged you?



Watch: 'Transgender Identities'

<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard> > For Leaders > Session 8



Session 8

2. What did you find helpful about the video?

3. What does the Bible teach us about our bodies?

- Genesis 1:26-27

- 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

4. Can you define the following terms?

Cisgender	
Gender Dysphoria	
Gender Identity/Experience	
Gender Expression	
Biological Sex	

5. How does differentiating between these help us in the conversation about transgender identities?

6. If someone is experiencing some level of gender dysphoria, whether it is diagnosed or not, what advice would you give them in regards to making changes? Why?

7. Why are gender stereotypes important in this discussion? In what ways have you pushed these stereotypes on yourself or others in your life?

8. What does the Bible say about masculinity and femininity? Can you think of biblical examples that match or don't match today's assumptions about masculinity and femininity? Consider Luke 13:34-35, 1 Thess 2:7-8

9. Why is Colossians 2:9-10 such a helpful verse when thinking about one's gender?

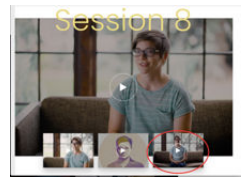
If you want to hear more from Heather,
watch: **'Heather Skriba's Story'**



<https://christian-sexuality.com/dashboard>

> For Leaders > Session 8

Click on the third video underneath



10. What other gospel truths would you emphasise to someone struggling with their gender identity? Why?

11. How else can the church love, include and cater for people who struggle with their gender identity?