

09 LGBTQ+ Questions

LEADER GUIDE

BIG IDEA:

The LGBTQ conversation raises many questions, only some of which we've been able to address in the previous two weeks. This video addresses some of the most common questions students are asking.

Tips for Conversation:

This week might be the most “heady” or intellectual of them all, since we’re dealing with theological and ethical questions related to the LGBTQ conversation. Some arguments against the Christian sexual ethic are addressed and refuted in this video. However, we must go about this kind of conversation with great caution. There is certainly a place to defend your convictions about sexuality and gender; that’s what this week is for. However, the danger of conversations like these is that they can become fodder for certain students (usually straight, analytically minded students) who are looking for an argument. While we need to stand up for the truth, we also need to make sure we continue to embody grace and compassion—and model for our students what this should look like.

You might also encounter students who aren’t sure about some things said in this video, or they might flat-out disagree. If so, don’t be alarmed! Moments like this are not problems, but pastoral opportunities. Make sure to create an environment where students feel comfortable asking hard questions and pushing back against what they hear. If you feel like you should point out flaws in a student’s reasoning, do so in a gracious manner—always honoring the person as an image bearer of God.

Remember, there’s always a *person* (and often a story) behind the question. If a student seems upset or angry at something they hear in the video, their

disagreement is probably not just an intellectual one. There might be a story underlying it all. Humanize, humanize, *always humanize* this conversation!

If a student raises a question or pushes back against something in the video and you don't know how to respond, it's okay to say, "That's a really good question. I need to think about that. Can I get back to you about this?" But if you do say this, make sure you actually think through the question and get back to them.

It's important for all students to know that they are *wanted* in the youth group, even if they don't agree with everything being taught. It's very common today for students to feel "safe" only in an echo chamber where everyone agrees with each other on everything. Disagreements and alternative points of view are sometimes viewed as dangerous and harmful. So you might need to go out of your way to ensure students that your love for them is not lessened one bit, even if there is disagreement. Show them honor, kindness, and love as an image bearer of God. Establishing this kind of relational environment is often the best way to have a fruitful conversation about contentious topics.

Questions for Small Group:

1. Was there something said in the video that stood out to you? Something you think is especially true and important?
2. Was there something said in the video that you disagreed with, and why?
3. Do you have any remaining questions about the LGBTQ conversation that haven't been addressed in this video or the previous two videos?

Additional Resources:

VIDEO: Full-length interview with Preston Sprinkle

WEB: 15 Affirming Arguments—and 15 Responses - www.centerforfaith.com/resources?field_product_category_tid=1

TOOL: Weekly devotional

