

# 09 LGBTQ+ Questions

## PARENT GUIDE

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### **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.

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### 5 Minute Check-In with Yourself and/or Your Spouse:

1. What questions do you have about the LGBTQ conversation that you haven't had answered sufficiently?
  2. Has your child ever asked you a question about LGBTQ issues? What was it? How did you respond?
  3. Who are your 2-3 most trusted voices in helping you address LGBTQ issues? (They might be public figures, speakers, authors, teachers, or writers.)
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### 5 Minute Check-In with Your Child:

1. What stood out to you in this week's teaching and/or small group time?
2. Can you think of any specific questions you've wrestled with that stood out to you? Why?
3. Did you disagree with anything you heard or talked about this week? What was it, and why? (NOTE: Make sure you're a good listener here!)
4. Do you have any remaining questions about the LGBTQ conversation? How can I support you as you work through them?

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## Tips for Further Conversation:

Wrestling through LGBTQ questions with your teenager can be difficult, especially if you don't always see eye to eye. Here are some general pieces of conversational advice as you engage them in this topic.

### **Be a good listener.**

This is a universal piece of advice for *any* relationship, but it's particularly important when it comes to LGBTQ questions. Our kids often see us as out of touch and behind the times—*especially* with regard to sexuality and gender identity. And, quite frankly, they may not be too far off the mark! This discussion has changed *drastically* in the last 10-20 years, and it continues to change every year, every month, every week. This is why it's crucial that we be great listeners. We need to hear our kids, understand them, *see* them. Sometimes there's a deep, complex story simmering beneath the surface of their question. But we'll never be invited into that story if we don't learn to listen, listen, and listen again.

### **Be gracious.**

Your child may believe or say something that sounds outrageous and untrue. Remember when you were a teenager? Did you ever believe or say something outrageous and untrue? How did you want your parents to respond? Most teens want parents who are gracious, loving, and kind. Personally, I want a parent who is also wise and learned—speaking truth into my life. But I want them to do this with much kindness and grace. If I feel like they just want to correct me or fix me, I'm going to tune them out. But if they are gracious to me, it shows me that they truly care.

We need to truly care. Sometimes addressing hard questions *graciously*, as good listeners, is the best way to care for your child.

### **Be truthful.**

Grace should never be extended at the *expense* of truth. Grace and truth are not at odds, and our kids need both. Don't be afraid to help your child understand the beauty of God's truth, even if it seems like they are resistant to the truth. Some of you might have kids who readily embrace God's truth—maybe they need a good lesson in love! On the other hand, some young people find it easy to



be loving, accepting, and affirming of others—but they are skeptical about God’s truth, especially if it conflicts with how they feel. Parents need to be both courageous and merciful, gracious and truthful.

### **Be committed to the journey.**

Our kids are on a journey. In fact, they’re at the beginning stages of their journey! The human brain isn’t fully developed until about 25 years old; so if it seems like your child isn’t thinking very rationally, it might be because they’re not. Don’t judge them, and don’t mock them. Rather, graciously understand that some things they passionately believe or don’t believe right now might be a distant memory next year. Play the long game; be committed to your kids. Tell them you love them and will never not love them, no matter what they do. If you disagree about questions related to sexuality, don’t assume that this disagreement will last forever. Maybe it will; maybe it won’t. But your relational commitment to your child will ensure that your voice will still be heard down the road.

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### 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](http://www.centerforfaith.com/resources?field_product_category_tid=1)

**TOOL:** Weekly devotional

