

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

LGBTQ & THE BIBLE – Session 1: First Things First

SESSION FOCUS

Conversations about the Bible and sexuality can be complex, emotional, and deeply personal. Before exploring specific questions or passages, this session invites us to slow down and begin with foundational truths: **what the Bible is, how we read it, and how Jesus calls us to hold truth and love together.**

This session is about building a strong foundation — not rushing to conclusions.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect honestly:

- When difficult topics come up in the church, what emotions do you notice first (curiosity, defensiveness, fear, confusion, hope)?
- What past experiences — positive or negative — have shaped how you approach conversations about faith and sexuality?
- What do you hope for as you begin this study?

(There are no right or wrong answers. This is about awareness, not evaluation.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read the following passages slowly and thoughtfully:

- **2 Timothy 3:16–17**
- **Matthew 22:34–40**

As you read, notice:

- What Scripture is meant to do in the life of a believer
 - How Jesus summarizes the heart of God's law
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KEY IDEA

Faithful conversations about Scripture begin with humility — recognizing that God's Word shapes us, and that how we read it matters as much as what we believe it says.



PART 1: WHAT THE BIBLE IS FOR

The Bible is more than a collection of rules or answers. It is the story of God's relationship with humanity and God's desire to transform lives and communities.

Reflection Questions

- What role has the Bible played in your life so far?
- Have you ever experienced Scripture as life-giving? As confusing? As painful?
- How does viewing the Bible as a story change the way you approach difficult passages?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: HOW WE READ MATTERS

No one comes to the Bible without assumptions. Our culture, upbringing, church tradition, and personal experiences all shape how we interpret Scripture.

Learning to recognize these influences is an important step in faithful study.

Reflection Questions

- What influences most shaped how you learned to read the Bible?
- Why do you think it's difficult to notice our own assumptions?
- How might humility improve conversations where Christians disagree?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: TRUTH AND LOVE IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Jesus consistently held truth and love together. He neither avoided hard truths nor used truth as a weapon. Instead, He invited people into transformation through relationship.

Reflection Questions

- Why do people often feel pressure to choose between truth and love?
- How does Jesus model a different way of engaging difficult topics?
- What would it look like for faith conversations to be shaped more by Christ's character than by winning arguments?

Personal Notes:



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect privately:

- What assumptions do I bring into conversations about Scripture and sexuality?
- Where do I feel confident? Where do I feel uncertain?
- What posture do I want to bring into the rest of this study — defensiveness, curiosity, humility, courage?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

Take a moment to pray — silently or aloud.

Ask God for:

- Wisdom to seek truth faithfully
 - Humility to listen well
 - Love that reflects the heart of Christ
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OPTIONAL TAKE-HOME PRACTICE

This week:

- Reflect on how you usually approach Scripture when topics feel challenging
 - Pray daily: *“God, teach me how to read Your Word with faithfulness and love.”*
 - Pay attention to moments when you feel defensive or curious — and bring those honestly to God
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FINAL THOUGHT

This study does not begin with answers — it begins with **posture**.

Before addressing complex questions, we learn again how to listen, how to read, and how to follow Jesus together — with truth, grace, and humility.

