



Explore the Bible Together

LGBTQ & THE BIBLE

SESSION 1: First Things First

REAL GOD | REAL PEOPLE | REAL LIFE

How to Use This Study

This series is designed to be experienced in two stages.

- **Personal Study During the Week**

Each participant reads the Scripture and works through the Study Guide before the group meeting.

- **Group Discussion Together**

When the group gathers, the Facilitator and Student Guides help guide conversation, reflection, and prayer based on the material everyone has already explored.

- This format allows the group to move beyond surface discussion and engage the Bible more deeply together.

First Things First

Many people are emotionally scarred because of the frightening and confusing messages sometimes communicated by the Church.

Our goal is to clear up some of that confusion and examine what the Bible does and DOES NOT say regarding the topic of same sex relationships.



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Most who disagree with you on this DO LOVE YOU but usually assume they know what they are talking about when they say, “The Bible Says...”.

- They address the issue from the level of understanding they were given.
- Few have done the deep study on the issue that we will do in this course.
- Many of them were/are genuinely concerned about your soul and eternal salvation.
- We have to be patient and take the role of the teacher.



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It's also important to note that the goal is NOT to win a theology debate.

The best argument is not one of theology but actions.

Matthew 7:16 — “By their fruit you will recognize them.”



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The Bible does not address sexual orientation as we understand it today

AT ALL!

- The writers had no concept of sexual orientation
- The term homosexual was first coined by Karl-Maria Kertbeny in 1869.
- The word “homosexual” first appeared in some English Bible translations in the mid-20th century (1946 RSV).
- The King James Version of the Bible was published in 1611 (258 years earlier)

First Things First

The Word HOMOSEXUAL in the English Bible

- Hebrew term qadesh referring to cult prostitution was sometimes translated “sodomite.”
- Greek word malakos meaning “soft,” often used for moral weakness or effeminacy, has been rendered “sodomite” or “homosexual”
- Greek word “arsenokoites” which means “male-bed” has been translated “sodomite” or “homosexual”
- Greek term “hetera sarx” which means “other flesh” has sometimes interpreted as referring to same-sex behavior



First Things First

Three very important things to remember when looking at the Bible:

- **Written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic—therefore must be understood in the intent of the original language**
- **Not all written at once (written over many centuries) therefore must be understood chronologically and in context!**
- **Written to a specific group of people—therefore must be understood in terms of culture of audience and author**



First Things First

What do we mean when we say, “The Bible is the Inspired Word of God”?

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16

INSPIRED DOES NOT MEAN DICTATED

The Greek word theopneustos, translated as "inspired" in 2 Timothy 3:16, literally means "God-breathed" or "breathed out by God," referring to the origin of Scripture rather than a mechanical dictation process. It signifies that God superintended human authors, using their personalities and styles to produce His word, not merely using them as passive stenographers.

