

Discussion Guide for the Week of May 15, 2022

Asking for a friend... 🤔

A Series For Your Questions

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. It is a loss if all your group does is read and answer these questions. They are conversation starters not the final goal. The final goal is discussion and discipleship. Remember, we want God's answers, not man's so land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace & time for growth. It takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What's the most important thing going on in your life right now?
- What is one statement that you believed in which you later found out was not true?

Context

We are in the fourth week of a series entitled "Asking for a Friend." Where we are diving into some of the questions you, or your friends, have had about faith, spirituality, and the Bible. We are striving to avoid simplistic answers while also leaving room for people to wrestle with their doubts, stories, history, and opinions. We often learn and grow more deeply when we wrestle and struggle through our questions. As you discuss things, don't feel like you have to have all the answers, or that you cannot leave the conversation with "let's pray about that, do some research on what the Bible says, and discuss that again next time we get together." Remember: we want to be a people of Grace and Truth - known for compassion, connection, care, great listening, being a safe place and space for people to process things, as well as being filled with flexibility, patience, respect, kindness, and gentleness. Above all: "Don't just give people the right answer, give them a Christ centered relationship." - Dave Rizer

This is week 2 looking at the question: "Does God's view of us change if we are bisexual?"

If your group or family has not listened to the past couple of weekend messages for this question (Rated PG), please do that before walking into this discussion guide. It is vitally important that everyone has the same working foundation for discussion. [You can find the message here.](#)

Engage the Bible

Begin your time with prayer then Read the passages and share Takeaways and Observations:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1:27

Proverbs 18:13 "To answer before listening— that is folly and shame."

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:1-2

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

The way of Jesus is Grace and Truth.

Grace: God Created Everyone

Grace: God Loves Everyone

Truth: God Designed the Sexual Standard - God's Sexual Standard was between a man and woman in a monogamous lifetime commitment of marriage.

Truth: Sin Wrecked the Sexual Standard - Anything outside God's original design for sexual standards is sin.

A Grace and Truth community at Northland means no one should struggle alone.

- Be a safe place to listen. - Be a safe place to learn. - Be a safe place to lean on God.

Question: "Does God's view of us change if we are bisexual?" - Answer: NO!

God's view of you doesn't change as a result of your choices. When we start thinking God's view of us changes as a result of our actions, our choices, or our sexual orientation we miss a greater, deeper, more powerful message of God - all of us are sons and daughters in need of salvation, transformation, and invited to a new way of life as apprentices of Jesus living in and for the Kingdom of God.

Helpful Biblical passages to read as a group if you want to go deeper as you discuss:

[Matthew 19:4](#), [John 8:10-11](#), [John 3:16](#), [1 John 4:10](#)

Biblical References to Homosexuality: Old Testament: [Genesis 19](#), [Judges 19](#), [Leviticus 18](#), [Leviticus 20](#).

New Testament: [Romans 1](#), [1 Corinthians 6](#), [1 Timothy 1](#).

Discuss

1. Discuss the truth that the way of Jesus begins with grace and truth? How has this truth impacted you? Do you generally lean more towards grace or truth in life? How has this impacted your relationships?
2. How does this impact: how we represent Jesus; how we talk to people; talk about people; and minister to people - even when they may believe or act differently from us?
3. What does it mean that Northland is a grace and truth community, where no one should struggle alone?
4. When has someone been a safe place for you to share the struggles, hurts, and hangups in your life? How did they provide safety and security? What can you take away from that interaction?
5. Have you ever shared something with someone and then discovered it was not a safe place to share? Or a helpful place to share? Why? What was different from being in a safe space?
6. What is one practical way in which you can be a safe place for your family and friends?
7. How does [James 1:13-15](#) impact how we can view life, sexuality, and our creation and design?
8. Discuss this quote:
 - o *We need to remind ourselves that the entire biblical sexual ethic is deeply counter-intuitive. All human beings some of the time, and some human beings most of the time, have deep heartfelt longings for kinds of sexual intimacy or gratification (multiple partners, pornography, whatever) which do not reflect the creator's best intentions for his human creatures, intentions through which new wisdom and flourishing will come to birth. Sexual restraint is mandatory for all, difficult for most, extremely challenging for some. God is gracious and merciful but this never means that his creational standards don't really matter after all. - N.T. Wright*
9. Read and discuss how the following passage impacts today's topic - and our lives as apprentices of Jesus. [Matthew 22:36-40](#).

End Your Group Time in Prayer

Want to Dive Deeper? Check Out

Books: *Messy Grace* by Caleb Kaltenbach, *Gay Girl, Good God* by Jacky Hill Perry, *The Rise and Triumph of Modern Self* by Carl R. Trueman

Podcast: [Things Above Podcast: A Conversation with John Mark Comer](#)

