

LEADER'S GUIDE

Defending Our Faith

Course Lecturer: D.A. Horton

If you have not already done so, it is important that you first review our [Leader's Packet](#) for specifics on how to open, facilitate, and close your group sessions.

This Leader's Guide walks you step-by-step through this lesson. Use as much of the suggested material as you find helpful. Some sections have more than one discussion question or idea so you can choose an option that fits your group. Feel free to add other ideas as well. You may also choose to extend this particular lesson to two or more sessions.

The Leader's Guide contains information that isn't covered in the Listening Guide so the group session adds value to those who have completed the Listening Guide.

Step-by-Step Through the Study

As you prepare for the session, you will find information you need to lead the discussion questions in this Leader's Guide.

Watch the introduction video for this course at [ODBU.org/discipleship-toolkit-series/](https://www.odbu.org/discipleship-toolkit-series/). You can also choose to download the transcript.

You can tailor this portion of your session to your group's interests and needs by selecting questions appropriate to your group.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 1. “What is apologetics? It is to be able to give a gentle response to those who question your beliefs. This is done not by “winning the argument” but with a gentle and humble response of what the Bible says.”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

Apologetics is when Christians provide answers to those who ask us questions about our faith. The goal of apologetics is to communicate the truth of the Christian faith. We do this with a heart that is gentle towards those who disagree with us.

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

Further Study

This Scripture is telling us that answering questions people have about our faith in Christ is a part of our worship to God. We can't control how people come at us but we can control how we respond to them. This passage is telling us to be gentle and respectful to those who don't like Jesus Christ.

2. Has there ever been a time when you heard someone disrespected Jesus or Christianity? (discuss or write them down)

Further Study

Don't try to Win Arguments –

- Apologetics is a word that means to defend. We're called to defend our Christian faith with reasonable, well thought out responses.
- The Bible never calls us to seek to win arguments against people who disagree with Christianity. Rather, 1 Peter 3:15-16 commands us to answer their objections in meekness, so they can understand what we believe.

In the video D.A. talked about ways to respond when people don't agree with us. Our heart should stay in a place where we don't get mad at the person for rejecting the truth found in the Bible. Despite their thoughts, words, and action we must continue to show them the love of Christ, even if they're hating on us and our faith.

3. What are some practices you can put into place when someone comes at you sideways about your faith in Christ?
4. What are some fears you have when someone asks you questions about Christianity?

Further Study

D.A. said we won't convince everyone in one conversation. Our goal is to be a visual example by living out our faith every moment of every day. All the while we should keep the conversation going with those who reject the message of the Christian faith.

Keep the Conversation Going – The idea is to keep engaging them in conversation. We should not just have one talk with someone about your faith and never interact with them again. Galatians 5:11 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) tells us the Cross is a stumbling block for people. It forces us to understand that we cannot earn or work our way into a right relationship with God.

- Apologetics is not a language, it's a lifestyle. There's nothing more powerful than expressing your beliefs (which are rooted in Scripture) and living these beliefs out in front of the people who disagree with you.
- Over the course of time they will see that your lifestyle matches what you've been telling them about in Scripture.

Pray – Prayer is a powerful tool too. The best way to follow up with a person you've had disagreement with is to pray for them. This is especially true if the disagreement was over faith. Sometimes people who hate Jesus will want to shut you out and stop you from talking to them about Jesus. If they do, be respectful to them then take it to God. The great thing is that they can't stop you from talking to God about them.

5. Who are three people you know that don't know Jesus?
6. What will it take for you to keep the conversation going with these three while you pray for God to save them?

Further Study

Even if people shut you down from talking to them about Christ, they can't shut you down from talking to God about them (aka pray for them).

7. What are some of your core beliefs when it comes to Christianity? How would you defend that belief? Where can you find Scriptural support for that belief?
8. What beliefs do you struggle with in Christianity? How can your struggles with various beliefs

- help you understand other people who struggle with believing?
9. Think about the people you know, what are their barriers to believing/faith? What about Christianity is hard for people to believe? Why do you believe?
 10. How does your belief in Jesus make you who you are (what you believe, how you trust, how you live)? How can you share/show these things to those who do not believe?

Reflection

It is important to promote this Reflection time in each session of the course. Ask the members to think back over what they have just experienced and form at least one point they can add to their understanding of God's Word. These insights may or may not match what they expected at the beginning of the lesson. Have them reflect on those affirmations or changes.

Also emphasize that this part of the group session could be an important time for participants to minister to other members of the group. Not everyone "sees" the same emphases and something one person highlights may be an added insight to others in the group.

Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 2. “The areas where Islam differs from Christianity is in who Jesus is, what the Bible is, and how you can be saved.”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

An Overview of Islam - <https://carm.org/islam>

Questions about Islam -

http://www.gotquestions.org/search.php?zoom_query=Islam&search.x=0&search.y=0

Answering Islam (Articles by Sam Shamoun) - <http://www.answeringislam.org/authors/shamoun.html>

Read John 1:1 (NLT)

Further Study

This Scripture tells us that Jesus (the Word) is: eternally God (the Word already existed before the beginning), essentially God (the Word was with God), and equal with God (the Word was God).

2. What are your thoughts about Jesus Christ being God? Is this claim true or false? Please explain your answer.

Further Study

Adam. Muslims believe Jesus didn't die on a cross or that he was resurrected from the grave.

- John 1:1 – Tell us Jesus is eternally God, essentially God, and equal with God. He is more than a prophet. He is eternal and he is not created.
- John 3:16 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture affirms Jesus as God's only and unique son, who God gave as an offering for our sin. God did this so we

could be set free from the penalty of our sins.

- Matthew 27-28 documents that Jesus' death on the cross and his subsequent resurrection are literal and historical events that took place. These events were necessary for us to be freed from sin.

In our video D.A. said Muslims believe the Bible is a good book, but consider it less than the Quran. Some people try to make the argument that the God of the Bible is the same God in the Quran. However, when we read passages from both books we see there are mixed messages that show how this cannot be the same God.

The Bible is God's Word, not the Quran – Muslims believe the Bible is a good book that should be respected but that the Quran is the final authority of God. The Bible is clear in presenting itself to be God's love letter to His children.

- The Quran contradicts the Bible
 - ◊ Sura 5:17 declares Jesus is not God while Colossians 2:9-10 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) affirms Jesus as God.
 - ◊ Sura 4:157 says Jesus was not crucified while Ephesians 1:7 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) tells us that if Jesus blood had not been shed on the cross we wouldn't have forgiveness of our sins.
 - ◊ Sura 16:102 says the angel Gabriel is the Holy Spirit while John 14:26 and Acts 5:3-4 (Leader Note: ask a student to read these passages) are passages that both affirm the Holy Spirit as God and as witness who confirms Jesus' testimony.

Muslims and Christians have two different answers to the question: "how is a sinner saved?"

Salvation is by Grace not works (5 Pillars) – Muslims believe that salvation is earned by being sincere about your faith and working through the 5 Pillars of Faith (Sura 3:135, 21:47, and 66:8-9)

- John 15:4 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - is a Scripture that reminds us that apart from Jesus Christ we cannot bear any fruit or ways of showing that we are saved. We must be connected to Jesus (the vine) in order to be saved.
- Ephesians 2:8-10 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - tells us salvation is by grace through faith, not our works.
- James 2:14-26 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - informs us that after we are saved, we are to go out and do good works

3. What are some differences between the Jesus Muslims talk about and the Jesus we read
4. about in the Bible?
5. Muslims and Christians both have teachings about salvation. What are the differences
6. between the two teachings of each faith?
7. Is God's universal and overwhelming love for all humanity or just Christians? How can we love people of different faiths? What role does respect play in this?
8. The Nation of Islam traces its roots from Muhammad to Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar. Read Genesis 21:8-21. How does this passage make you feel about Islam? How can this passage

- help you respect Islam? How can you use this passage to relate to and speak with Muslims?
9. Read Genesis 25:9. How does this passage make you feel? Does this passage give you hope that one day Christians and Muslims can reconcile?
 10. Reread John 3:16. Who does it say can believe in Jesus? Is there a list of people, religions, ethnicities, etc. before the word “believe?” How would you share this with someone of another faith?

Reflection

It is important to promote this Reflection time in each session of the course. Ask the members to think back over what they have just experienced and form at least one point they can add to their understanding of God’s Word. These insights may or may not match what they expected at the beginning of the lesson. Have them reflect on those affirmations or changes.

Also emphasize that this part of the group session could be an important time for participants to minister to other members of the group. Not everyone “sees” the same emphases and something one person highlights may be an added insight to others in the group.

Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 3. “There are two major areas where Roman Catholics differ from Christianity. Who is the head of the church—the pope or Jesus? Who is the mediator between us and God—Jesus or Mary?”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

There is a difference between Protestants and Romans Catholics, in both belief and in practice. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 Thesis to the door of the church at Wittenberg. Luther wanted to start a conversation about changing some of the false teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. Luther recognized that the Bible taught something profound, something that wasn't being recognized or taught in the church: that God's righteousness becomes the sinner's righteousness when it is embraced by the sinner through faith.

There are some Roman Catholics who have embraced Jesus Christ as Savior. Others are Roman Catholic because that is what they've been told their whole lives. Let's take some time to work through various Roman Catholic practices and compare them to the teachings in Scripture.

An Overview of Roman Catholicism - <https://carm.org/roman-catholicism>

What is Roman Catholicism - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Roman-Catholicism.html>

Read Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

Further Study

This Scripture passage is telling us that Jesus Christ is the Leader of the Church. No other man, woman, or child is qualified to be the head of the Church.

2. How do we know the Pope is not the head of the church? (discuss or write down your answer)

Further Study

Jesus Leads His Church – Roman Catholics teach the Pope is the head of the church. They believe he is infallible, which means everything he teaches is the absolute truth. In addition, they believe the Bible and church traditions are both equal in authority.

- Colossians 1:18 & Ephesians 1:22-23 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - both of these Scriptures express the fact Jesus alone is the head of His church.
- Ephesians 2:1-3 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - informs us all people are dead in sin. We all make mistakes meaning none of us are infallible, especially in our speech and actions.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - reminds us that it is the Bible and not traditions that contain the Word of God. Scripture is the rule of standard we use to know what we believe and how we are to live.

In the video D.A. took time to explain how Jesus didn't need Mary's permission to die on a cross for the pardon of sinners.

Jesus is our only Redeemer and Mediator – Roman Catholics teach Mary, the mother of Jesus, is Co-Redemptrix. This basically means that she gave Jesus permission to share his life and offer himself up for death. Roman Catholics also teach Mary is Co-Mediator between God and man.

- Mark 10:45 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - tells us that Jesus came to give his life as a ransom. He didn't need Mary's permission to do this. Also, according to John 3:16 God sent his only Son, not son and mother, to die as a demonstration of his love for us.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - tells us that Jesus Christ alone is our mediator.

3. What are some Scriptures that profess Jesus is the only person who can save sinners?
4. Do you know of any Roman Catholics or, are you related to any, who have not embraced Jesus as their Savior?
5. What can you do to intersect your life with theirs and share with them the hope you've found in Christ?

Further Study

Jesus' work Provides us with Salvation – Roman Catholics teach we must do works (deeds) to be justified (declared not-guilty for our sins). They teach that we are to do good works of charity and participate in all of the Sacraments (traditions).

- Ephesians 2:8-10 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - informs us we are saved by grace through faith in God and not by our own works.
- Romans 10:9 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - tells us we will be saved if... We believe in our hearts that Jesus was resurrected and confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord. Being baptized as a baby, taking communion, or having the last rights given to us does not save us.

6. We are going to do an exercise to explain the meaning of justification by faith. Begin by reading 2 Corinthians 5:21. On a piece of paper draw two columns. On one side write the word YOU and under it write “Sin.” On the other side write CHRIST and under it write “Righteousness.” Draw an arrow from the word righteousness to the word sin. Draw another arrow from the word sin to the word righteousness. There is a two way transaction taking place here. Our sin is being transferred to Christ’s account even as Christ’s perfect righteousness is being transferred to ours. God does this not on the basis of our works but solely of his free grace.
7. Read Romans 3:21–26. How does the righteousness of God come to us? How many have sinned and fallen short of the God’s glory? How did God present Christ? Why did God present Christ in this way? Why do you think God “left the sins previously committed beforehand unpunished?”
8. Read Romans 1:16–17. What reason did Paul give for not being ashamed of the Gospel? Why do we need to be righteous in God’s sight? How is this possible for us? Can we do enough good works to reach this point?

Reflection

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Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 4. “The one thing that sets Christianity apart from all other religions is Jesus Christ. Who do Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus is?”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

Some people consider Jehovah’s Witnesses to be Christians. However, many of their teachings contradict what the Bible teaches.

An Overview of the Jehovah’s Witnesses - <https://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses>

Questions about the Jehovah’s Witnesses - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Jehovahs-Witnesses.html>

Read John 1:1 and 1:14 (NLT)

Further Study

This Scripture passage is telling that Jesus (the Word) is: eternally God (the Word already existed before the beginning), essentially God (the Word was with God), and equal with God (the Word was God). Additionally John 1:14 tells us that Jesus stepped out of eternity and into our time becoming fully deity (Godhood) and full human.

2. What are your thoughts about Jesus being God? What do you think about Jesus being fully deity and fully human? (discuss or write down your response)

Further Study

The New World Translation – This is the version of Scripture the Jehovah Witnesses. They believe it to be the only true translation. The translators of this version changed such passages as;

- John 1:1 and added the word “a” to support their teaching that Jesus is just one of many gods.
- Colossians 1:15 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - Jehovah’s Witnesses use this passage to say Jesus is the first created being by God. However, what the Apostle Paul means is that Christ is superior over all forms of creation. This is because Christ existed before all of creation and because he created creation.
- Jesus is not the Spiritual brother of Satan (Note: Here’s a link to an article answering this point - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Satan-brothers.html>)

The story of Jesus’ resurrection is a key truth of the Christian faith. Jehovah’s Witnesses reject the resurrection of Jesus. We must work to understand the importance of the resurrection and learn how to defend our faith by explaining its importance.

3. Why is the resurrection important to Christians?
4. How does the personhood of the Holy Spirit affect your life?

Further Study

Let’s work through a few passages that show us why we can trust the teaching that the Holy Spirit is a person:

Jesus was resurrected from the Grave – Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that Jesus didn’t raise from the grave physically rather, he rose in a spirit body.

- John 1:14 tells us that Jesus took upon himself human flesh, thus adding humanity to his deity. From the moment of his birth and through all eternity Jesus remains fully God and fully man.
- When he resurrected, he still had his physical body. John 20:27 provides evidence of this because we read that Thomas put his finger in Jesus’ wounds.

Jehovah’s Witnesses also have a faulty view of the Holy Spirit. Let’s take time to work through the Scriptures so we can see and know that the Holy Spirit is God, not a force or “thing.”

The Holy Spirit is God, not a Force – Jehovah’s Witnesses reject the teaching of the Trinity while denying the Holy Spirit is both God and a person. They talk about the Holy Spirit as if he is a mere force.

- Acts 5:3-4 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - this Scripture declares the Holy Spirit to be God.
- Acts 28:25 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – this Scripture records that the Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah the prophet. A force doesn’t speak but a living person does.
- Romans 8:26 – (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – This Scripture says the Holy Spirit prays to God the Father on our behalf. This happens as we’re praying! The Holy Spirit helps us during times when we don’t know how to pray.

5. Is God’s universal and overwhelming love for all humanity or just Christians? How can we love

- people of different faiths? What role does respect play in this?
6. How would you share the message of the gospels with a Jehovah's Witness? What do you think would be the most difficult part of your discussion? How would you handle their resistance?
 7. One of the greatest differences between Christianity and the Jehovah's Witnesses lies in the respective views of the Bible. The Jehovah's Witnesses have their own authorized translation, the New World Translation. How would you handle a situation where you are comparing texts with a Jehovah's Witness?
 8. Ephesians 4:15 says that "speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." How would this look in a conversation with a Jehovah's Witness?

Reflection

It is important to promote this Reflection time in each session of the course. Ask the members to think back over what they have just experienced and form at least one point they can add to their understanding of God's Word. These insights may or may not match what they expected at the beginning of the lesson. Have them reflect on those affirmations or changes.

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Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 5. “What do Mormons believe about the Book of Mormon? About the Bible? What do Mormons believe about who Jesus is?”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

An Overview of Mormonism - <https://carm.org/mormonism>

Questions about Mormonism - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Mormons-Christians.html>

Read Proverbs 30:5-6 (NLT)

Further Study

This scripture is telling us that God’s Word is perfect and we should not try to add or take away from it. Any faith or philosophy that says they have “the Word of God” and it’s not the Bible is in error. Mormons make this claim. Let’s take some time to work through their holy books and how they line up with Scripture.

The Bible and the Book of Mormon are not Equal – Mormons teach that both the Bible and the Book of Mormon are both inspired and from God. According to Mormon teachings, Joseph Smith received direct revelations from God and when he spoke, God was speaking through him. Mormons teach the Book of Mormon is the most correct book on earth.

- Much of their doctrine is not found in the Book of Mormon but other documents such as:
 - ◊ Doctrine and Covenants
 - ◊ The Pearl of the Great Price
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture reminds us the Bible is the only document that contains God’s Word. Paul tells us that all Scripture, every passage in the Bible, is inspired by God.
- Proverbs 30:5-6 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - this passage prohibits

people from adding to God's word. There is no reason to add or take away from the Bible. We do not need to attempt to write another holy or religious book besides the Bible.

2. Do you think man can ever become God? (Please explain your answer)

Further Study

Mormons teach that Jesus progressively became God rather than always being God.

We Will Never Become God – Mormons teach that Jesus is the child of God the Father and Mary. They also teach Jesus is a “lower-case” god and any human, like Jesus, can eventually become god.

John 3:16 declares Jesus to be God's only, unique son. Jesus is not the result of a sexual relationship between God the Father and Mary. The Bible never says a sexual relationship between the Spirit of God and Mary took place (Matthew 1:20-25).

John 1:1 & 8:56 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - these Scriptures affirm Jesus' eternal existence. He was not created because he has always existed because he is God

Let's take a look at the salvation Jesus offers us. After all Jesus is the only qualified person who can save us.

Jesus and Satan are not Brothers – Mormons teach that God had many wives and conceived other children besides Jesus. Lucifer, who was cast out of heaven, became Satan. Mormons call Satan Jesus' spiritual brother from another heavenly mother.

- Isaiah 14:12-14 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This passages describes how Satan's pride caused him to be cast out of heaven. He wanted to be worshiped instead of God.
- Ezekiel 28:12-15 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - this passage tells us that Satan was created as an angel but he rebelled against God.
- (Note : Here's a link to an article answering this point - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Satanbrothers.html>)

3. Read 1 John 4:1–6. According to this verse, are Christians to believe everything they hear? When people speak to us, how should we test what we are being told? Why do we want to make sure it agrees with Scripture?
4. Ephesians 4:15 says that “speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” How would this look in a conversation with a Mormon?
5. How would you share the message of the gospels with a Mormon? What do you think would be the most difficult part of your discussion? How would you handle their resistance?
6. One of the greatest differences between Christianity and the Mormons lies in the respective views of the Bible and other religious books. How would you handle a situation where you are comparing texts with a Mormon?
7. “Why do you think there are so many differing beliefs in the world?”

Reflection

It is important to promote this Reflection time in each session of the course. Ask the members to think back over what they have just experienced and form at least one point they can add to their understanding of God's Word. These insights may or may not match what they expected at the beginning of the lesson. Have them reflect on those affirmations or changes.

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Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.

Introduce the Lesson

Introduce the lesson by reading the “Introduction” of Lesson 6. “What does the LGBT community believe about who God is? Can there be gay Christians? Is a person born gay?”

Ask if there are questions about the session or about preparation for the session.

Application Questions

1. What is one new thought you had as a result of watching the video?

Further Study

God is clear that sex is a gift that is to be enjoyed within the framework of marriage between one man and one woman. All sexual activity outside of marriage is considered a sin.

Answering “Are There Gay Christians?” - <http://www.equip.org/article/answering-the-gay-christian-position/>

A Response to the book, *God and the Gay Christian* - <http://www.albertmohler.com/2014/04/22/god-thegospel-and-the-gay-challenge-a-response-to-matthew-vines/>

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)

Further Study

This Scripture passage is telling us is individuals who practice these sins as a normal part of their lifestyle and do not repent will not inherit the Kingdom of God. This passage shares with us good news too. Through Jesus Christ, those who practice these sins can be forgiven for their sins and set free from their addictions to sin.

2. What are three thoughts that come to your mind when you hear “inherit the Kingdom of God?” (discuss or write them down)

Further Study

Salvation and Ongoing Sin – One question that often comes up in this conversation is this: “can a person be gay and saved?”

- John 3:16-17 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – This Scripture passage tells us that everyone who believes in the Son will not perish but will be saved through the Son. There is no criterion for being saved except believing in Jesus, the Son.
- John 11:25-26 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - Here Jesus says that anyone and everyone who believes in him will never die. Again, there is no criterion for salvation except for belief.
- Romans 3:23 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture tells us that everyone has fallen short of God’s perfect standard.

Let’s look at what Scripture tells us regarding homosexuality.

- Leviticus 18:1-23 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture passage records God’s command against forbidden sexual practices, including homosexuality. These commands were given to separate the Israelites from their surrounding nations. The Israelites were to listen to God, not man.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – This passages lists habitual sins that people who will not inherit the Kingdom of God practice.
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 - (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – This passage tells us that we can be cleansed, even though we have struggled in the past with sin. We can be made “right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

All Christians struggle with sin and temptation to sin, even after they are saved. However, we all must learn to remember:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture says you are a new creature in Jesus Christ, the old you is dead and gone. This new life is a gift from God. No matter our sins, through Jesus we will be reconciled, reunited, and brought back to God. When this happens God will no longer count our sins against us but will make us Christ’s Ambassadors.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This passage tells us to live a life of self-denial regarding sexual immorality.
- Philippians 4:13 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - this verse reminds us Jesus Christ gives us the strength to fight our temptations to sin.

3. Do you have any close friends or family members who are part of the LGBTQ community?
4. Do you think people are “born gay?” (explain your answer)

Further Study

Our hearts should be sensitive to two truths when speaking to family and friends who are part of the LGBTQ Community. First, we must continuously show them unconditional love, just like God has shown us. Secondly, we must share with them the truth of Scripture and pray God would compel their hearts to embrace Christ as Savior.

The question we just dealt with is one that many people wrestle with daily. Let’s look at the Scriptures to unpack the reality of everyone’s spiritual condition.

Are people born gay? All people are born sinners and are drawn to practice various types of sin.

- Psalm 51:5 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture passage says that, from the point of our conception, we are all sinners.
 - Romans 1:18-32 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture passage explains what happens when people turn away from God and begin to worship worldly things. They fully engaged in every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. If we are to be followers of Jesus we need to turn away from all of these things and not act like these people.
 - James 1:14 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) - This Scripture passage says individually, we are all tempted to sin by our own desires.
 - John 3:3-8 (Leader Note: ask a student to read this passage) – In this Scripture passage Jesus explains and expresses the need for sinners to be born-again.
5. What specific concerns arise in the church concerning the LGBTQ community? How do you think the church should deal with these concerns?
 6. What do you see as the greatest LGBTQ obstacle in ministry? What would be a helpful solution in your particular setting?
 7. What is one thing that challenges your assumptions about people who identify themselves as LGBTQ?
 8. Without offering a solution, what is one thing that increases your compassion for the LGBTQ community?
 9. Ephesians 4:15 says that “speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” How would this look in a conversation with someone who identifies themselves as LGBTQ?

Reflection

It is important to promote this Reflection time in each session of the course. Ask the members to think back over what they have just experienced and form at least one point they can add to their understanding of God’s Word. These insights may or may not match what they expected at the beginning of the lesson. Have them reflect on those affirmations or changes.

Also emphasize that this part of the group session could be an important time for participants to minister to other members of the group. Not everyone “sees” the same emphases and something one person highlights may be an added insight to others in the group.

Close in Prayer

You may want to ask if anyone is dealing with something they would like prayer for. Depending on the size of your group, it would be meaningful to pray for each person by name.