

TRUTH & TOLERANCE
DISCUSSION GUIDE

BEFORE WE BEGIN...

The purpose of Truth & Tolerance is to help open students' minds to God's perspective on the issue of homosexuality. Whether you are watching this video with a large or small group, or maybe just one-on-one with your student or your own child, this study guide is designed to get the most out of the Truth & Tolerance DVD. We hope this won't just be an entertaining video, but an experience that will radically change your understanding of this issue, in light of God's truth.

You can duplicate pages 3 - 9 for your students, or just read the questions aloud between sections of the video.

For this discussion, we'll split the Truth & Tolerance video into four sections:

Intro What's it All About? What Does the Bible Say? Can People Really Change?

Between each section, pause the video and address the discussion questions with your students. You'll know when to stop the video, as titles will announce each new section.

Try to steer your group clear of any debate or arguing. While some of the topics and questions brought up may be controversial - even in a Christian group - create an atmosphere where the students feel safe to voice the opinions and questions they have in reaction to the video.

Some of the questions here are a bit on the personal side, so you may want to encourage your students to have a place to write their thoughts down privately, or discuss in smaller groups.

BE AVAILABLE

In our experience, it's very common to have at least one student dealing with same-sex attractions and identity issues, regardless of the group's size. One of our biggest hopes is that the viewing of this video will embolden students with secret struggles to confide in you, the one who ministers to them.

Also, many students are deeply affected by friends or loved ones who struggle with or embrace the homosexual lifestyle. They may need someone to talk to, or feel a strong desire to reach out to their gay-identified peers or family members.

If you've purchased this video and plan to show it to students that you are ministering to, you probably have a heart to help those facing any of these situations. Prayerfully consider the role that God would have you play in the lives of young people whose personal struggles may come to light by showing this video.

There are more resources available to you and your students in this series. Please check them out at

www.TruthAndTolerance.org

BEFORE YOU WATCH...

What do you feel when people start talking about homosexuality? What's your gut reaction?

How is this issue important to you personally?

What questions do you have regarding this topic?

What are you expecting or hoping for from this video?

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Watch the first video segment and pause when you get to the title screen, “What’s it All About.” Now discuss these questions:

Where does the debate over homosexuality leave you? Does one side sound more “right” than the other? Or do you sort of feel lost in all the arguing?

Do you find yourself in conflict about how to respond to homosexuality? How?

If you’re pretty sure of where you stand, how did you come to a solid belief?

What are your first impressions of Zizi, Mike, Michelle and David? Can you identify with anything they have said?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

What do you think causes homosexuality?

Do you think it's genetic? Why do you think so many people believe it is?

The four testimonies mentioned some things that happened early in their lives. How do you think these things affected them? How do you think they would have (or did) affect you?

Both Mike and David talk about a desire for a "best friend." Can you identify with that desire? If you had a best friend growing up, what do you imagine it might have been like if you never did?

How do you see homosexual relationships meeting needs for Zizi, Michelle, and the guys?

What do you think of what Mike's boyfriend said to him?

WHAT DOES GOD REALLY SAY?

Some people say that the Bible doesn't really teach that homosexuality is wrong--or even that it says it's okay! What similar arguments have you heard?

How can you identify with the church experiences of the people in the video?

Take a moment to look up the following Bible verses. Write down your thoughts as you read them, thinking about where our culture stands on these issues. Do you think God's Word is relevant today?

Note: as you read the verses, don't just consider them individually, but consider them each in light of all the others. What do you think God's *whole* perspective is?

Leviticus 18:22

Ephesians 5:3

Romans 1:26-27

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

CAN PEOPLE CHANGE?

Talk about what “change” means for your everyday Christian. What is Jesus asking each of us, as his disciples, to do?

How would “change” be different for a Christian who struggles with same-sex attraction? Would it?

After listening to the four testimonies in this section, what do you hear them saying about the change that’s happened in their lives?

What role did other Christians play in affecting the lives of these four people?

What ongoing struggles do *you* have as a growing Christian? How can your peers, parents and pastors help you best in maturing in Christ?

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE

How has this video affected you?

At the end of the video, Mike and Scott each offered a challenge to those for whom this is a personal issue, and also to all Christians. Whichever category you fall into, is there anything you want to do differently after watching **Truth & Tolerance**?

BUT WAIT! THERES MORE!

There's more information, help, and resources for people whose lives are affected by the issue of homosexuality. Here is where you'll find them:

[HTTP://EXODUS.TO](http://EXODUS.TO)

Exodus International's main website. Here you can read articles on the many facets of this issue, testimonies from overcomers, find out about upcoming events and even locate an Exodus ministry near you.

[HTTP://EXODUSBOOKS.ORG](http://EXODUSBOOKS.ORG)

The Exodus International Bookstore offers the widest selection of Christian books and multimedia resources on this topic.

[HTTP://WWW.LIVEHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.LIVEHOPE.ORG)

Living Hope Ministries offers safe online support groups for students struggling with issues of sexual identity.