Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 4
What Should We Do Next?
Note to Discussion Sessions

The following discussion session is part of a 4 series programme which has been designed to be used in a group from a local congregation or circuit. You can decide how much or how little of the suggested format to use. You know your context best. Please, modify or adapt the sessions as you see fit for the comfort level of your participants. If the full plan is followed, you should allow an hour to an hour and a half for each of the four sessions, which might easily be scheduled one night a week for a month.

The session guides are complements to and assume that participants will have read ‘Sexuality – Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions’ or the relevant sections of the document for each session prior to attendance. If your group does not wish to work in this way, you may plan to have some copies of the document on hand for people to review the relevant sections over a cup of tea/coffee prior to the start of the session.

Session 1
Why This, Why Now

Session 2
Human Sexuality in Christian Perspective

Session 3
Discussing Homosexuality

Session 4
What Should We Do Next

All of these can be downloaded from www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS
Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 4

What Should We Do Next?
Open the Session with prayer.

To the leader:
This session we are thinking about what we can do with everything we have talked about over the past few weeks. This wasn’t discussed just for the fun of it, or because we were told to but because we are part of God’s family and we are called to look out for one another and be pro-active in loving and caring for each other.

DOER, THINKER, SPEAKER, SUPPORTER

30 mins

» Ask each person to decide which of these relates most to them - Doer, Thinker, Speaker or Supporter, assign one to each corner of the room and ask the young people to move there.

» Assign each one with a different action or noise, ask the group to repeat this enthusiastically!

» Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-18 - instruct your group to listen carefully to the passage for references to their type of activity and to do the relevant noise or action when they hear something that fits.

» Give each person a copy of the passage so they can read through and underline anything that stands out.

» Ask each group to feedback - did everyone have equal opportunity? Were there times that more than one group could relate to an activity?

In groups - Doers, Thinkers, Speakers and Supporters - (if there aren’t enough people in each group for this then just small discussion groups or if your group is up for it you can do a full group discussion.)

Get each group to come up with a pro-active list of things you, as that type, can do in your church, youth group, school, community, home for others.

God has created us to be together and to work together for the good of His Kingdom - so lets do it.

Give the ‘What’s Next’ Handout to each group and get them to discuss the questions and write down anything they can from what they have been thinking about.

Come back as one group and create one big pro-active list of things that could be done.

RE-CAP ALL SESSIONS

30 mins

Have a discussion with your group answering the following questions (if you feel that they need to be split up for this then split them and bring them back after some time for feedback)

» How did you feel at the beginning?

» Do you feel any differently now?

» What is something that has stood out for you?

» Is there anything that you would like to discuss further?

» What is one thing you are taking away with you?
Ask your group if there is anything they would like to say to the whole church regarding this subject? Get some materials together and allow them some time to design what they would like to say - maybe they are proposing suggestions or relaying a response or maybe they have questions they need to put to the whole church. Whatever it is, allow them space as a group to create something that can be shown to the church.

Please send their responses to wphs@irishmethodist.org

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RE-VISIT SECRET QUESTION BOX

5 mins

» Type up all of the questions from the secret question box and put them up around the room.

» Give each person some stickers and ask them to go around the room and stick a sticker on any questions that they think haven’t been covered or they want more information on (some questions may have been answered during the sessions but there may still be some they would like to discuss more).

Forming a panel would be a great way to bring the whole programme to a close - this can be done at a separate time - the week after or a month down the line. Form your panel with people from your church family and give them all of the questions from the secret question box. Have a full session dedicated to the panel answering the questions from the group.

CREATIVE PRAYER

10 mins

At this point it would be great to end the session in prayer; handing everything that has been thought, discussed and shared over to God.

We have looked in this session at 4 different categories of people - everything that is done is important in this stuff - we need the thinkers, we need the doers, we need the speakers and we need the supporters. This is a great chance to bring all of this together - every prayer is important and every person is important.

Make a chain of prayers - connecting everyone and bringing everyone and everything together. Write as many prayers as you want - share these prayers with the group if people are happy to do that and then connect it all together to have a visual representation of us coming together as a church family.
AS A GROUP WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN EACH OF THESE:

1. What can the church do to become a community that helps people express their sexuality in healthy and fruitful ways?

2. How welcoming can we be to those who do not conform to the traditional norms? What would this look like? What is our role?

3. What might the Holy Spirit be saying to us through the many changes in society’s attitudes to sexuality?

4. What are the most pressing matters about human sexuality in our community? What can/should we be doing, saying, thinking? What would this look like?