

# THE BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY AND HOPE



## VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

## Small Group Discussion Questions

**Ice Breaker.** Pastor James took a break this week from the *Authentic Jesus* series to address a key biblical issue facing our culture. Before we jump into discussing the content of the message, take a moment to talk as a Small Group about the example set by our Pastor of submitting a plan to the Lord. Why is it important to surrender plans—even good ones—to the Lord? Why is it hard to do that? Share an example of when you've done that or should have and didn't.

1. In his testimony, Christopher Yuan shared that the primary reason he was delivered from the bondage of homosexuality was because he had found that being in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ was far better. Share what you are finding to be far better about being in Christ than being apart from Him. What part of this world did you leave behind for Christ?
2. **The Truth is...It's Sin. Read Leviticus 18:22, 20:13.** Pastor James defined sin as doing anything that goes against God's loving plan for human flourishing. Discuss the relationship between God's Law and God's plan for human flourishing. Our culture struggles with accepting the totality of God's Law because of some of our society's arbitrary laws. What's wrong with extending that same thinking to God's Law? What happens when we choose to break God's Law? Why should this not be the case in the life of a Christian?
3. Through God's Law we see how God feels about sin, such as homosexuality. However, through His Grace we see how He feels about sinners. As a Small Group, search the Gospels for three examples of Jesus Christ engaging sinners with truth and grace. While Jesus was fully truth and grace, we tend to be more one or the other. Pastor James explained the danger of ministering to others in this way: "All truth without grace is brutality; all grace without truth is hypocrisy." How would a balanced approach of truth and grace make you more effective in God's mission of redeeming lost people to Christ? Why do you tend to be more one than the other? What does that say about your understanding of the Gospel? What do you need to do this week to grow in breathing in the Gospel so you are better at breathing out the Gospel?
4. **The Truth is...It's Perversion. Read Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:22-27.** Pastor James taught that all sin is the same. In what sense is all sin similar? Pastor James also taught that there are differences between sins. What would be the differences between various sins? The Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin of perversion. What is perversion? What is homosexuality a perversion of? Why is a decision to accommodate a person's sin, like the one made recently by President Obama an unloving thing to do? Homosexuality was explained as a legitimate need fulfilled in an illegitimate way. What are your legitimate needs? In what ways are you meeting your legitimate needs biblically? In what ways are you tempted to meet your needs un-biblically? Why is the choice you make on this matter an indicator of what you believe about God's ability to meet your legitimate needs?
5. **The Truth is...It's Bondage. Read Genesis 19:1-11.** Homosexuality is sin, but Scripture makes it clear that it is also bondage. Discuss how this was the case in the residents of Sodom. Bondage ensnares the soul and alters a person's view of reality. What is God's heart toward those caught in bondage? What is your view of those caught in bondage? Pastor James taught that we are souls with a body. Our souls have a conscience. What is the purpose of your conscience? What are the different levels of injury that you inflict upon your soul when you harden your heart to God's voice (cf. Hebrews 3:7-8)?
6. In his story, Christopher shared that he believed that his sin had become his identity. Why would connecting your identity to your sin further tighten the chains of bondage? What other sins of bondage exist in our society? In the other testimony shared, Hope said that hearing the truth about her spiritual identity was the beginning of her walk to freedom. What had Satan tried to steal from Hope by entangling her with the chains of her sin? What is the most powerful tool you have to reclaim your identity? Why would a Gospel message heavy in only truth or only grace be ineffective in delivering a person caught in sin? For the person caught in bondage, what does receiving and believing the Gospel of grace and truth do for their identity? How does living out your identity in Christ change the way you view your sin?
7. **The Truth is...It's Destructive. Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11.** Paul states that "the law is good when it is used lawfully...in accordance with the Gospel." What is the purpose of the Law in sharing the Gospel? In what way has the Church failed to use the law in accordance with the Gospel? How was Hope's Small Group and Chris's parents living examples of this Scriptural principle?
8. **The Truth is...There's Hope in Jesus Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** Pastor James urged Harvest to be a church that heralds the hope of Christ to those lost in sin. Christopher's parents are such an example. In the midst of their suffering, Christopher's parents experienced revival. How did God's revival of their hearts help them to love their son unconditionally? Christopher began to turn toward Christ when he read Jeremiah 29:11. What hope does this verse offer to those caught in or to those who have a loved-one caught in bondage? In what ways are you consumed with something of creation instead of Christ? Is there a sin that is crouching at your door or that you're entangled to? How can your Small Group support you in seeking spiritual freedom? Why is Christ better than anything else?