

## **Homosexuality Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Were you particularly close with any family members growing up? Explain.
2. Overall, would you say you like to try new things or go with what you already know you like?

**Read the following passage:** Romans 1:18-27.

Paul begins his presentation of the Gospel by arguing 1) that Gentiles are sinful and 2) that their sin is inexcusable because of God's revelation in the created world. In making this argument, Paul highlights idolatry and homosexual sex because, in his mind, these sins are particularly obvious examples of what he is claiming. Idolatry and homosexual sex violate what God has revealed in nature about himself and his intention for human sexuality. After condemning Gentiles, he quickly turns to the Jews, ultimately concluding "that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin" (Romans 3:9).

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Is it difficult for you to participate in a discussion on homosexuality? Explain.
2. To what degree does biblical teaching shape your approach to a subject like homosexuality? What other experiences, people, or resources have impacted how you think about homosexuality? Explain.
3. How would you respond to the claim that in Romans 1 Paul is really only addressing homosexual sex connected with (pagan) temple prostitution, pederasty (sex with boys), or other exploitative homosexual acts? (Is there anything in what Paul writes in Romans 1 or in his Old Testament background that would argue against this understanding?)
4. Read Matthew 19:3-6. How is this passage relevant to the subject of homosexual relationships?
5. How would you respond to the statement: "We have no record of Jesus saying anything about homosexuality so we have no idea what he thinks about the subject?"
6. How would you respond to the following argument: "Jesus taught that love is the highest value. What really matters in marriage, then, is that two people love each other, not that they are different genders."
7. How do you think Jesus would engage someone who is gay or lesbian in our cultural context? What hope might be offered someone who experiences same-sex

attraction?

8. Are there any ways you think you need to change how you interact with those who are gay or lesbian? Explain. Are there any practices that need to change in your own life in the area of sexuality?

**Pray**