



Conversations- Week 2

ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (15-30 minutes)

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting, if your group is continuing from last semester. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Ice-Breaker suggestion: The M&M's challenge: Pass a bag of M&M's around and tell everyone to take a few but not to eat them. Ask each person to share something for every M&M. For example, for every red M&M, share a TV show you like; for every blue M&M, share a place you would love to travel; and for every yellow M&M, share something you appreciate about a friend. Let people eat the M&M's as they share.

CHECK-IN TIME (15-30 minutes)

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

Conversations are an essential part of our daily lives. They are a source of entertainment, laughter, information, and joy. Sometimes though, conversations are the source of discomfort. For the next few weeks, we are going to be intentional about having some uncomfortable conversations that give us the opportunity to grow in our faith and love the people around us better.

1. Read [Proverbs 3:5-6](#). How has leaning on your own understanding caused confusion in your life, or in the life of someone you know?

Have you experienced the truth of this verse (That He will direct your path) as you have trusted and sought out God in different areas of your life? If so, how?

2. [Read Luke 9:23](#) Danny shared in his message that when we accept a behavior, we are unknowingly accepting the philosophies that produced or allowed that behavior. When you consider Transgenderism, or other worldly behaviors that we routinely see in the world today, we see a philosophy that preaches complete fluidity and freedom to do whatever **feels** right. But scripture tells us we must deny ourselves (and our feelings) every day in pursuit of the truth of Jesus.

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Gender dysphoria is one example among many possibilities when we act on feelings instead of biblical truth. Take a minute to think about the last 3 decisions you have made for yourself or for your family. What did you base that decision on, feelings or truth? How has your life been impacted for the better or worse because of those decisions?

3. Read [Psalms 139:13-16](#). We are made intentionally in the image of God. That image includes our gender, gifts, interests, and abilities. Over time our culture has created standards and accepted norms for both male and female.

For example, if you are a man, you must love watching sports, be an outdoorsman, have the ability to fix things when they break, and rarely show emotion and if you are a woman, you must be sensitive, enjoy fashion, cosmetics, and cooking meals.

What cultural influence have you felt pressured or shamed by related to your gender? How have these cultural standards influenced your experiences socially, your relationship with God spiritually, your confidence, or your identity through life?

4. We are image bearers. Children of God. We are purposefully created and unconditionally loved by God and called to emulate and reproduce that love to others.

For individuals not experiencing gender dysphoria: When you think about interacting with and developing relationships with transgender individuals what challenges or hesitations arise in your mind? How can you intentionally show grace to those who are transgender?

For individuals who are experiencing gender dysphoria: How can you turn to God as the absolute truth on how he created you biologically and in your identity?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own. Consider finding an accountability partner within your group to walk alongside you this week.

- **Turn to Jesus:** If you are currently navigating gender dysphoria, spend time this week identifying the truth that you were made with considerations and intention exactly how you are.
- **Seek Counsel:** Connect with your Emmanuel Campus Pastor to discuss questions at eclife.org/staff.
- **Read a Book:** Consider [Embodied by Preston Sprinkle](#).
- **Have a Conversation:** Practice having the courage to reach out to a person in your life who has gender dysphoria and have a conversation.



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- **Daily time with God:** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have that allows you to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily. You can even decide to do one as a group to encourage one another as you do the daily readings.
 - If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Ask your group to share two things

1. Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
2. Ask also for any reason to praise, it is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's life and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne De Avila, Emmanuel's Associate Outreach Director, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16| Night of Worship

March 17| 1824

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.