



Conversations- Week 1

HIGH SCHOOL 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: Play the game "Whodunit". Have each person write down something interesting they've done on a note card (e.g., skydiving, have lived in 10 different states, drank a gallon of milk in five minutes—the sillier the better). Put the note cards into a hat, give it a nice shake, and have each person draw a note card they will then read aloud. The reader must then try to guess "whodunit" and why they came to that conclusion.

CHECK-IN TIME (15-30 minutes)**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 4 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 Judges 21:25](#). Do you believe this verse reflects our world today? If so, how do you see it present in our society today?

Read [Proverbs 28:26](#) and [John 14:6](#). Our culture teaches that we get to decide what is truth for ourselves, but Jesus says He is THE truth. Scripture teaches us that we are fools for trusting our own insight. How do you include Jesus into the formation of your day-to-day decisions or opinions you form?

2. [Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#). Although the topic for this week's message was homosexuality, we read in this passage that there are many sins that can be committed which would prevent someone from inheriting the Kingdom of God. When you think about homosexuality, do you elevate it as greater than other sins? Or why do you think many other Christ followers elevate it?

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When you think about the conversations you have had with people in your life about culturally charged topics, do you find yourselves tempted to dilute or shy away from biblical truth to avoid appearing unaccepting? If so, why?

3. Rick Warren said, "Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

The reality is that we have and will continue to encounter people in and out of the church that will have same sex attraction, or practice homosexuality. We can love them while also keeping the conviction to the Biblical truth.

How can you intentionally love the people in your life who have same sex attraction or practices homosexuality while also holding your position?

Jackie Hill Perry said in her book *Gay Girl, Good God*, "I don't believe it is wise or truthful to the power of the gospel to identify oneself by the sins of one's past or the temptations of one's present but rather to only be defined by the Christ who's overcome both for those He calls His own."

If you experience same sex attraction or know someone who does, how can you/they turn to Jesus as the whole source of your identity?

4. Read [Romans 1:25](#). We were created by God for God. Even the smallest details of your lives were meant to worship Him, the Creator. Often, we get in the rhythm of worshiping the things He created instead.

Currently, what is God competing with for your worship?

5. We all struggle with sin. Yet, God created you for himself. He longs for us to turn from the desires and temptation drummed up by our broken humanity and rest our whole lives in Him. He desires us to help our friends find themselves in Him as well.

What do you need to do this week to turn to Jesus in your own life, or hold your ground and intentionally love someone you disagree with?

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 same sex attraction, spend time this week turning to Jesus and finding your wholly in Him.



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- **Seek Counsel:** Connect to the Emmanuel Counseling Center at eclife.org/counseling or connect with your Emmanuel Campus Pastor to discuss questions at eclife.org/staff.
- **Read a Book:** Consider [Messy Grace by Caleb Kaltenbach](#) or [Gay Girl, Good God by Jackie Hill Perry](#).
- **Have a Conversation:** Practice having the courage to hold your ground lovingly as you encounter uncomfortable conversations this week.
- **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 Schafer, Emmanuel's Associate Outreach Director, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13 | VERB

March 16 | Night of Worship

March 17 | 1824

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