



## WWYD: Gay | September 26, 2018

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

What would you do if your life experience didn't match what you were taught... Especially if it had to do with your faith?

#### Key Verses

##### 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)

*"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

#### Discussion

There are many people in the world today who wrestle with an inconsistency in what they've been taught or told and their own life experience. This is especially true for those who identify as gay, and even truer for gay people who have engaged with the church in significant ways. Many of these people feel misunderstood, like they don't fit. Some despise Christianity. Some are so distraught over the inconsistency and struggle that they consider suicide.

1. Do you have a close relationship with someone who identifies as gay? Describe the nature of this relationship and what you've learned from them.
2. Is there an area of your life where you feel like an "outsider" in some way? Explain how this makes you feel.

In this series, our goal is to put aside our political leanings and unwavering theological viewpoints to instead ask ourselves what we might do if we were "in their shoes." If this were our experience or life story, consider how we might see it through a different lens. When we consider basic humanity, and what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ, made in the image of God, we can't help but to open our minds just a little wider.

3. When you see or hear the word "gay," or encounter someone who identifies as gay, do you find yourself viewing that person or conversation with a predetermined lens? Explain.
4. How might seeing people who identify as gay as brothers and sisters in Christ, made in the image of God, change your lens? How would it encourage you to think differently?

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, we read a verse that is commonly referred to when discussing homosexuality within the church. In fact, it's this very verse that causes many gay people to feel like their life has no meaning or like they're so disgusting that they shouldn't even be here. Summarizing, it says that those who do wrong don't belong in God's kingdom. And that's where many people stop. But if we read on, in verse 11, we see that Jesus is a game changer. Because of Him, we can be washed, sanctified and justified from all of our sin.

5. When you read this verse, are you tempted to stop before verse 11? To make the issue black and white? Explain.
6. How does Jesus act as a game changer? What is it about him that should change all of our lenses?

#### What's Next?

Sometimes this verse is used to make the issue black and white – that homosexuality is just wrong. But what about everything else on the list? What if it's a little more complicated than that? Setting your politics and theology aside, take a moment to ask yourself the questions, "If this was my story, how would I want to be treated – within and outside of the church? What would I do?"

This week, as you live out your faith, step into the conversation with a new lens. Consider for a moment the experiences of others that don't match your own. Seek out conversations and listen before you speak.