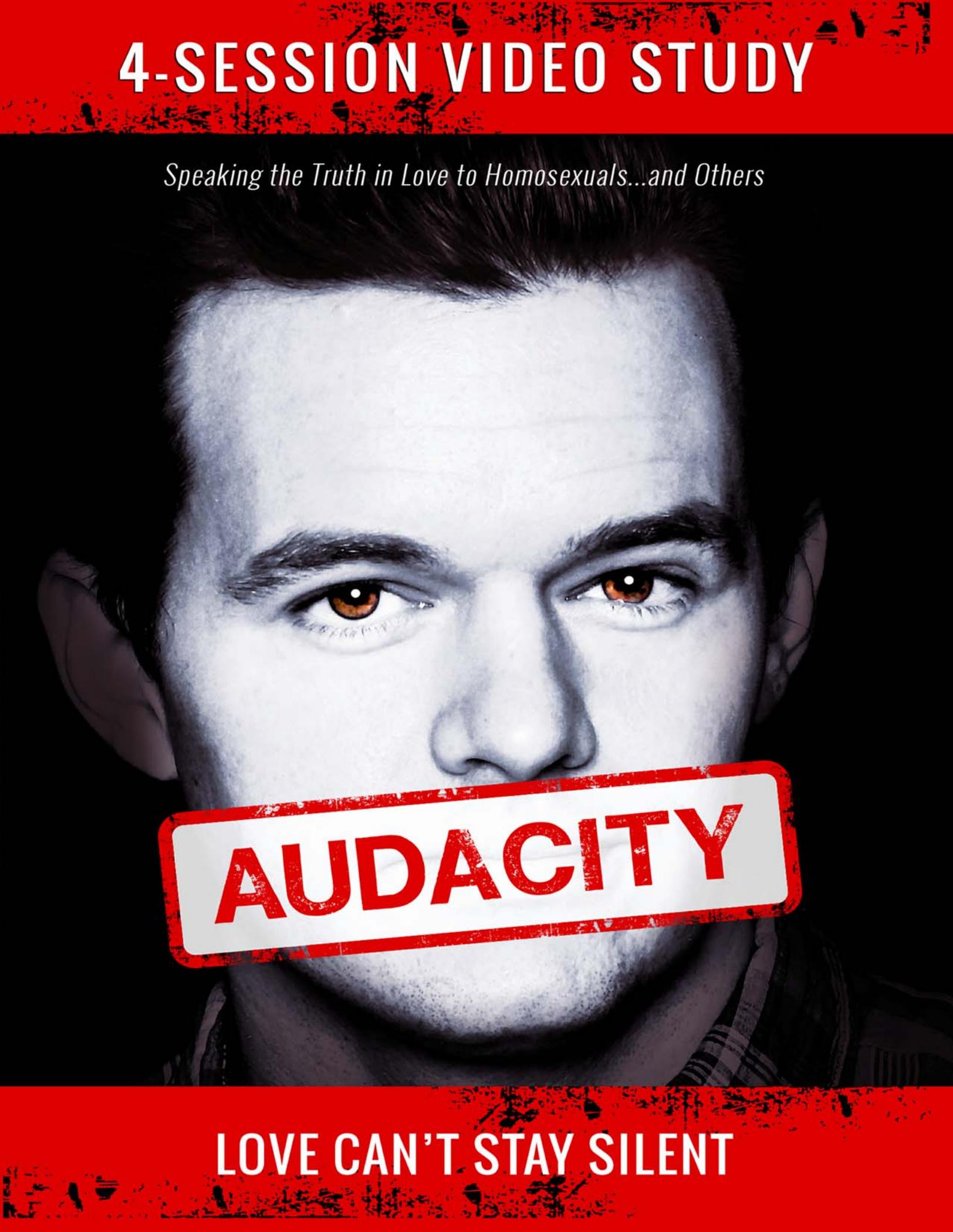


4-SESSION VIDEO STUDY

Speaking the Truth in Love to Homosexuals...and Others



AUDACITY

LOVE CAN'T STAY SILENT

Audacity: Video Study Study Guide



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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the *New King James Version*, © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee.

For more information, for bulk DVDs to give away,
or to watch "Audacity" freely online, see:

AudacityMovie.com

Using This Study

As Christians, we may find homosexuality one of the most challenging issues of our day. Though we know it goes against God’s will, many of us are intimidated into silence for fear we’ll be called “homophobic,” “hateful,” or worse. Or, we may have friends or loved ones caught in this sin and we don’t want to offend them by saying their lifestyle is wrong.

Yet if we care about people, we must not remain silent. We have been commanded to go into all the world and share the glorious gospel, with all kinds of people who need to hear it. So we must equip ourselves to address this sensitive issue with compassion and grace. Not just homosexuals, but adulterers, fornicators, liars, and thieves—*everyone*—needs to hear about the forgiveness that Christ offers to all who repent and trust in Him for salvation.

This four-session study will help you to know how to witness biblically to anyone. While it’s suitable for personal use, it is primarily intended for group study to get the most out of the material. To use this study, view the video (20–25 minutes), then guide the discussion using the questions and Scriptures listed under “Seeking the Truth.” Ask as many questions as you have time for.

“Speaking the Truth in Love” are thought-provoking sections addressing homosexuality. Whether you take time to read them together and discuss in the class or have individuals read at home, they offer truths from God’s Word to help you answer arguments about homosexuality.

Thank you for your concern for the lost, and for taking this course. May God bless you as you study it—and put it into practice.

Until the nets are full,



SESSION 1

Danelle



“The culture has offered us a false gospel, one that approves of all we do, leaving us to pursue anything we desire. The scriptural gospel is far better. It makes sense of our humanity. It restores our dignity. It calls us to be men and women who see our body as a gift, a vessel by which we may give glory to our Maker and Redeemer.

It is the message of Scripture, and the hope of us all.”

—Owen Strachan, president, Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood

Seeking the Truth

1. What is the biblical definition of marriage? How does that differ from society’s definition?
2. If you were not a Christian, what might your attitude be toward gay marriage? Do you feel differently about the issue as a Christian? If so, why?
3. How could you respond when someone says, “You should be able to marry whoever you love”?
4. How would you reply to someone who says that happiness is the most important issue in life?
5. Homosexuals claim their desires are natural and therefore acceptable. What does God’s Word say about this in Romans 1:26,27 and Ephesians 2:1–3?
6. So that Christians don’t overemphasize homosexual behavior, what other traits does Romans 1:29–32 say are deserving of God’s judgment? How many of these traits were true of you before you came to Christ?
7. Do you tend to think worse of homosexual sins than of heterosexual ones, or other sins? Discuss whether that’s right or wrong in God’s sight.
8. What are Jeremiah 17:9 and Proverbs 14:12 saying, in your own words?
9. Discuss why it is an effective and inoffensive way to bring up the subject of God by asking, “What do you think happens after someone dies?” or “Do you think there’s an afterlife?”

10. Explain and discuss the sin of “idolatry.” Were you guilty of that sin before you were saved?
11. Explain and discuss the use of the moral Law (the Ten Commandments) in evangelism. (See Romans 2:15; 3:19,20; 7:7; Galatians 3:24.)

Speaking the Truth in Love

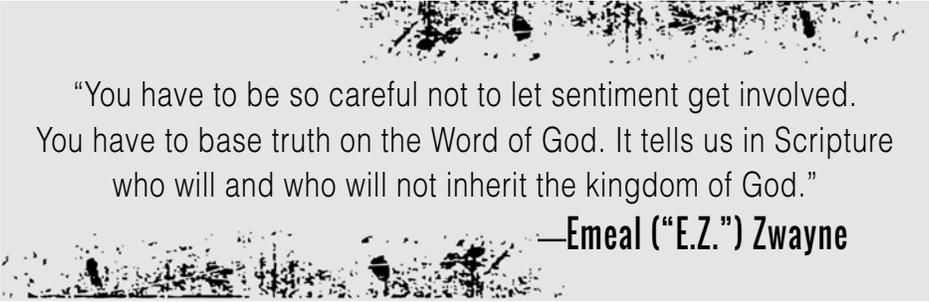
“Is there a difference in attending a wedding for a gay couple and one for a couple that is living together? What about if the bride is pregnant?”

The moral Law is spiritual, so anyone who has as much as looked with lust has committed adultery in the heart (see Matthew 5:27,28). It is therefore not unreasonable to conclude that in some way every secular couple has sinned sexually in God’s eyes—whether they are physical adulterers, adulterers-at-heart, or fornicators, pregnant or not. However, by getting legally married they are fulfilling God’s plan for a man and a woman, because He is the One who sanctioned the institution of marriage (see Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5,6). Every wedding I have attended falls into this category.

“Marriage” between homosexuals, on the other hand, has never been sanctioned by God. Marriage is God’s institution and He said it is between one man and one woman. Two men or two women cannot be married in His eyes. So when homosexuals are “joined together in holy matrimony,” it is as meaningless as a man being married to his dog or cat, hoping for God’s blessing on bestiality. God has never authorized such a union, nor such behavior. God’s Word says, “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination” (Leviticus 20:13).

In addition, marriage is a picture of our union with Christ: He is the Bridegroom and the Church is the pure virgin bride clothed in white (see Ephesians 5:22–32). For two men or two women to come together in a union and call it “marriage” is to corrupt the concept of holy matrimony, and is an affront to God. So while we can celebrate the marriage of a couple who had been living together, we cannot support a homosexual union by attending the event.

(Adapted from *The Evidence Bible*)



“You have to be so careful not to let sentiment get involved. You have to base truth on the Word of God. It tells us in Scripture who will and who will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

—Emeal (“E.Z.”) Zwayne

SESSION 2

Kyrie



“All of us, Christian or not, can kid ourselves into thinking what we feel is self-evidently God given, as Jeremiah aptly put it: ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?’ (Jer. 17:9). So looking at the many feelings we experience—some good, some not—I cannot imagine Him approving of us yielding to desires simply because we’ve always had them.”

—Joe Dallas, program director, Genesis Counseling

Seeking the Truth

1. Why should we be careful not to look on the outward appearance of someone with whom we are attempting to share the gospel?
2. Do you believe that atheists are intellectual? Read and discuss Psalm 14:1.
3. Put Romans 1:18–20 into your own words.
4. How can you reason with an atheist, using natural means?
5. Why is it important to stay with the gospel, and not use apologetics just to win an argument? Discuss what our attitude should be, according to 2 Timothy 2:24–26.
6. Try to explain why any human being could think that they are “God.” How would you refute such a thought?
7. Explain Proverbs 20:6 in your own words. Why do people do that (see Romans 10:3)?
8. Discuss the legal aspects of the gospel, and why that resonates with an unbeliever.
9. Discuss David’s prayer of Psalm 51 and its relevance to evangelism today.
10. Why is it wise to ask someone if they’re open-minded and respect other people’s beliefs?
11. In sharing the gospel, what two things should we be telling sinners to do in response? (See Acts 17:30 and 20:20,21.)

Speaking the Truth in Love

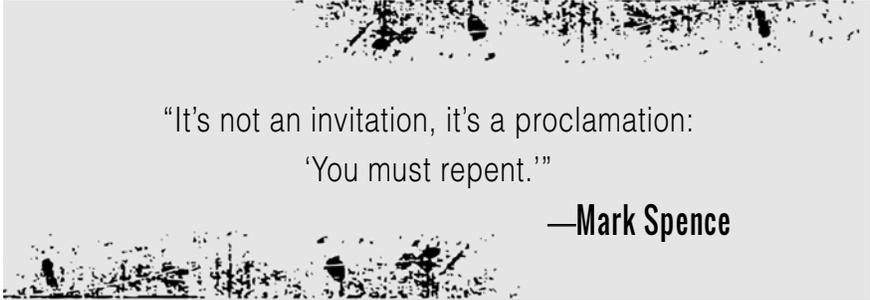
“Why would God allow me to have these feelings if they are wrong?”

To answer that question, we must first understand that just because something *feels* right, doesn't mean it *is* right. Just because a man or woman *feels* like committing adultery, that doesn't mean that it's right.

Often people say that homosexuality isn't a lifestyle they have consciously chosen, but rather one they have by nature. They're right; they are “born that way.” The truth is, we are *all* born with a sinful nature. It doesn't matter whether we have homosexual tendencies, or heterosexual tendencies. We are all born with the capacity and desire to sin. We gravitate to sin as a moth gravitates toward a flame. That's why we must be born again with a new heart, with new desires . . . desires that are pleasing to God, which He will give to anyone who comes to Him in repentance and faith.

So, rather than take our moral guide by what feels good and seems natural to us, we must look to God's Word, because as the Bible says the human heart is deceitful, and can't be trusted—but *His* judgments are “true and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:9).

(From “The Way of the Master” Intermediate Training Course, Lesson 5)



“It's not an invitation, it's a proclamation:
‘You must repent.’”

—Mark Spence

SESSION 3

Sarah



“[The pastor] preached on John 7:17: ‘If anyone wills to do [God’s] will, he shall know concerning the doctrine’ . . . I was a thinker. I expected that in all areas of life, understanding came before obedience. And I wanted God to show me, on my terms, why homosexuality was a sin. I wanted to be the judge, not one being judged. But the verse promised understanding after obedience.”

—Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, author, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

Seeking the Truth

1. What can we tell about Sarah by the fact that she believes God is okay with homosexuality?
2. Discuss Hebrews 9:27: “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment . . .”
3. Explain what Jesus means in Luke 12:4,5.
4. Discuss these promises from the book of Proverbs that come when we fear God: Proverbs 10:27; 14:26; 19:23; 22:4.
5. Why should we appeal to a sinner’s will to live?
6. Why do you think sinners try to minimize sin?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 10:12 and discuss how men tend to measure their goodness. In Mark 10:17,18, what did Jesus point to as God’s standard of goodness?
8. Share the analogy of white sheep eating green grass and explain how that relates to sin.
9. How does the punishment given for a crime reveal the seriousness of the transgression?
10. What should you do if someone acknowledges his guilt, yet says he is still going to Heaven?
11. After sharing the gospel, why should we call people to action?

Speaking the Truth in Love

“Don’t Christians believe homosexuals should be stoned, according to the Old Testament?”

A similar question was asked of Jesus by the religious leaders of His time. The Old Testament Scriptures called for the death sentence, not just for homosexuals, but also for rapists, fornicators, and adulterers . . . and a woman had been caught in the very act of adultery.

The religious leaders threw her at the feet of Jesus, and tested Him by asking if she should be stoned to death. They didn’t think He could show the love and mercy that He taught, and yet uphold the truth and justice of the Law.

We are told that Jesus then bent down and wrote something in the sand. We don’t know what He wrote, but some have suggested that it was the Ten Commandments. This is because after the men heard Him say, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first,” they were convicted by their conscience and began to leave, from the oldest to the youngest.

That’s what the moral Law does, when we have a mind to listen. The Law reminds us that God is a Judge, and that we are guilty criminals who have broken His Law.

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord,” to which He replied, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

So, when it comes to homosexuals, none of us can cast the first stone because we’re all guilty of violating God’s Law. Instead, to those who fall at the feet of Jesus and call Him Lord, we say, “Go and sin no more.”

But those who refuse to repent and fall at the feet of the Savior will have to face that same terrifying Law that calls for their damnation. Jesus warned that on Judgment Day those who reject Him will be ground to powder. And God’s Law will be so thorough on that Day, in its relentless search for perfect justice, it will go right down to our idle words and even to our thought-life.

So, whatever your sins—whether lying, stealing, blasphemy, fornication, homosexuality, adultery, or lust (which God considers to be adultery of the heart)—repent today, and put your trust entirely in Him who died for guilty sinners and rose again on the third day. You and I broke God’s Law, but Jesus paid our fine . . . so that God could dismiss our case. And once we trust in Jesus alone, we go and sin no more.

“God has given us something we can do about our death, and it’s crazy that the world isn’t lining up saying, ‘Please, tell me’—but that’s because they don’t understand the danger they’re in.”

—Ray Comfort

SESSION 4

Anna and Kelsey



“The root problem for anyone is neither biological (nature), nor environmental (nurture). It’s spiritual. Those former homosexuals in ancient Corinth weren’t simply changed; they were transformed through a real encounter with the living Christ. New birth brought new life. The same fresh start is available to everyone. God is there to forgive, and God is there to restore, regardless of individual struggles. And that is the best hope for anyone, homosexual or heterosexual.”

—Alan Shlemon and Greg Koukl, *Stand to Reason*

Seeking the Truth

1. Discuss how we are all born with a “sin gene,” and how each of us choose to sin.
2. What is our goal when witnessing to homosexuals?
3. Read the following verses and discuss the hope that God offers to anyone struggling with homosexuality or any other sin: 1 Corinthians 6:10,11; Titus 3:3–6; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17.
4. Why do you think that people “generalize” their sins (“Everybody does it!”)?
5. Discuss the function of a mirror, and how that relates to the function of God’s Law.
6. What is the danger of telling people to “ask Jesus into their heart,” rather than to repent?
7. What is moral relativism, and why is it a harmful worldview?
8. How does the Law create a level “playing field”? (See Romans 3:9,10,20.)
9. According to 1 Timothy 1:8–10, name those for whom the Law was made.
10. When it comes to personal salvation, why is it foolish to say, “I can do that on my deathbed”?
11. Discuss the firefighter analogy, and how that relates to our fears.

Speaking the Truth in Love

Love Casts Out Fear

When Kirk Cameron and I produced an episode of our television program, “The Way of the Master,” on how to witness to homosexuals, we decided to visit the homosexual district of West Hollywood for interviews. The day we were due to go there, I was a little nervous. As I was driving there with the camera crew, someone asked if I was nervous. I said, “I share my courage with others and keep my fear to myself.” That was a great truth I learned from Robert Louis Stevenson. Just after that, Kirk called and said, “I’m nervous.” I said, “So am I.”

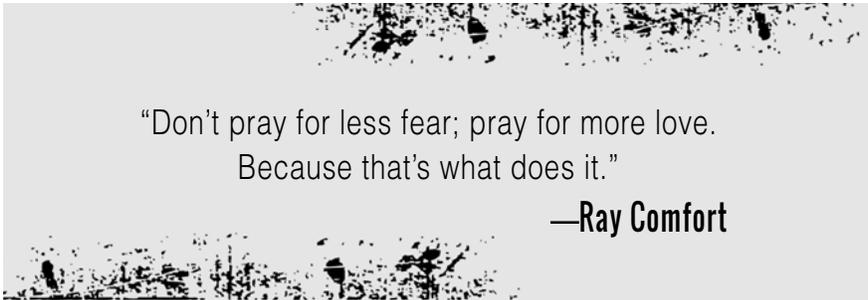
When we arrived, it wasn’t what I expected. The gay district had a festive atmosphere, with men walking hand in hand and greeting one another with long hugs, and women passionately kissing each other. The area was upper class, safe, clean, and tidy. It was a “sanitized Sodom.”

I saw two men sitting together, so I walked up to them and said, “Hi. We’re doing a TV program on America’s spirituality and we want to get the perspective from the gay community. Are you two gay?” Their names were Kevin and Ryan. Kevin was homosexual and Ryan was bisexual. Ryan didn’t want to be on TV, so as Kirk interviewed Kevin, I sat with Ryan and asked if he’d had a Christian background. His mother was Christian and his father was Catholic. He said that he had been pleading with God in prayer to take away his homosexual tendencies. I said, “You know what helped me? It was the Ten Commandments,” and I took him through the Law, and into the cross. I told him that he needed a new nature, prayed with him and then left him with some literature to help him. He was so grateful, and I was so thankful that I didn’t listen to my fears.

Have you ever noticed that when you turn on a light, darkness leaves? The two are incompatible. It’s the same with fear and love. Love casts out fear. When we turn on the light of God’s love, fear can’t stay. It has to leave. The key is to let love cause you to think of the terrifying fate of the person to whom you want to witness.

Paralyzing and tormenting fear isn’t from God, but it can work for your evangelistic good. It can make you trust in God. Fear shows us that we are weak, and it causes us to call on God for His help. So don’t let your fears discourage you. Instead, let them drive you to Him who gives courage, and in so doing, your greatest weakness then becomes your greatest strength.

(From *Behind the Scenes: “The Way of the Master”*)



“Don’t pray for less fear; pray for more love.
Because that’s what does it.”

—Ray Comfort

APPENDIX

How to Minister to Someone Who Struggles With Same Sex Attraction

By Dennis Jernigan

I grew up in the church . . . Imagine my horror when, at 10 years of age and already knowing my struggle, I overheard the men discussing homosexuality. When I heard them describe what they thought of someone like me (even though they did not know they were talking about me, I did), my reaction was simple: these are the men who know God. They hate people like me. God must hate me. I felt absolutely no hope of help from them or from God . . . did not know where to turn . . .

I remember hearing so many times in my formative years so many hellfire and brimstone sermons, often with homosexuals leading the pack into hell. Never hearing an inkling of hope for my situation from anyone, I had no other recourse but to distance myself relationally from anyone who might get too close . . . who might possibly find out my abomination. I take responsibility for my choices . . . but the other side of the coin where the rubber meets the road is that the church drove me away out of fear and ignorance. One of the saddest things facing the body of Christ today is that many still do this without realizing what they are doing.

After I graduated from my Christian university in 1981, I found myself in a homosexual relationship. By this time I had given up on being able to change and, just like most of the world, assumed change was not possible . . . that this was just the way it was meant to be. My assumption was that by surrendering to my homosexual identity I would find peace. Wrong! I felt used most of the time. The love that was professed seemed more self-focused and abusive than genuine self-sacrifice. Becoming disillusioned with the gay community and agenda, I turned back to seeking God. A friend invited me to live with him at the end of the summer of 1981 and he soon discovered my secret. Rather than rejecting me and humiliating me (which was what I had grown quite accustomed to) he did something I had honestly never seen demonstrated before. He extended the real and practical love of Christ to me!

What did that look like? He told me he loved me no matter what my struggle was! He told me he did not know all the answers to my dilemma . . . but he knew THE Answer! He told me he would be willing to walk toward Jesus with me . . . for however long it would take . . . through whatever roads the journey might take us. He told me he would walk toward Jesus with me! How simple! How empowering to a hopeless soul! How loving! How unselfish! How like Jesus! It was his response and the divine intervention of God's love that led me to repentance on November 7, 1981.

I believe that I would have been saved years of torment and suffering had I ever heard there was hope when I was a child. Most Christians, whether they will admit it or not, judge homosexuals as hopeless . . . and assign a higher degree of sinfulness to homosexual behavior than their own sin that separated them initially

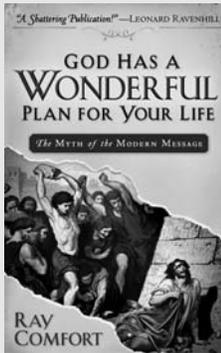
from God. Sin is sin! But the greater mistake that most people make is assigning a moral identity to homosexual behavior and never looking beyond the surface to what the root of homosexual behavior really is.

Judgment is for God—our commandment is to love. When is the last time you had a conversation with someone you know is homosexual without looking for the escape route? When is the last time you made your homosexual co-worker feel worth your time? When is the last time you knocked on your homosexual neighbor’s door and offered them a batch of freshly baked cookies? When is the last time you saw a homosexual as human—or as God’s creation in need of a Savior?

There is no need to argue with the militant homosexual. Put on love and know when to walk away and when to offer a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name. It was the harshness and fear I sensed from good church people that drove me away from the Lord. It was God’s loving-kindness as expressed through a non-judging friend that led me to repentance.

(Adapted from DennisJernigan.com, reprinted with permission.)

Resources



Along with this course, it would be greatly beneficial for your group to read our free online book, *God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life*. You can freely read it online at FreeWonderfulBook.com.

“While reading this book my heart went into atrial fibrillation; it’s that good! After I finished it, I couldn’t sleep. There’s nothing like it. It is truly from God.”

—Bill Fay, evangelist and author

We also encourage you to listen to HellsBestKeptSecret.com. This important teaching will give you a firm foundation for biblical evangelism.

The Way of the Master Basic Training Course. This award-winning, eight-week DVD study is ideal for group training in how to share your faith. It takes the concepts introduced in the “Audacity: Video Study” and covers them in-depth to give you a thorough understanding of how to share your faith biblically. It also teaches you how to overcome your fear, as well as answer common questions about Christianity. Commended by John MacArthur, Ravi Zacharias, Josh McDowell, and many others.



For a complete list of Ray Comfort’s resources, visit www.LivingWaters.com.