



Building Trust
with LGBTQ+
Students

③ Things to Know

1 LGBTQ+ community has its own culture

-history/events -vocabulary
-backstory -customs

Learning more helps to understand LGBTQ+ culture.

2 Successful LGBTQ+ ministry starts from compassion and trust

People want to be cared for and accepted as they are. Like Jesus, you don't need to agree with a person to offer support. Listen compassionately and be a confidant.

3 The main objective is to be more like Jesus and help others do the same

Don't begin with theological positions. Focus on being like Jesus through Scripture and prayer. Sexuality and gender identity are among many topics to be approached in God's timing.

Things to Avoid

1 Using alienating micro-messages

Small un/spoken or un/conscious messages have an impact on relationships. Phrases like "love the sinner, hate the sin," derogatory terms, silence on the topic or not using preferred pronouns create barriers to trust.

2 Practices that express fear or antipathy

These practices can exist:

- *internally* (tension within one's self)
- *interpersonally* (relational tension, differing beliefs/practices)
- *institutionally* (events that exclude based on LGBTQ+ identity)

3 Assuming all in your community are straight/cis



Your fellowship likely has people who identify as LGBTQ+. Embrace them and help make your community welcoming. Create structures with identifying people in mind.

③ Things to Try

1 Understand more of your sexuality and gender identity in light of the gospel

All our sexualities and genders are affected by brokenness. We need Jesus' help with our identity. Ask for God's help and talk with trusted friends.

2 Take a look through different lenses



There are different lenses to understand the sexual and gender minority experience. Try on another lens for a wider view. (See back for more details.*)

3 Connect with the LGBTQ+ community

Be like Jesus and lovingly enter LGBTQ+ spaces. Attend an event or training. Send care packages to LGBTQ+ centers on days of remembrance or after hurtful events.

Try a Different Lens*

(*from 3 Things to Try)



Integrity Lens:

Prioritizes theological beliefs and obedience to God

Diversity Lens:

Prioritizes celebrating difference and negotiating civil rights

Accommodation Lens:

Prioritizes pragmatism and making room for exploration of differences

*Mark Yarhouse, *Listening to Sexual Minorities*



InterVarsity

More Resources

Questions or need more resources?

Email: Jessica Pafumi

Discipleship & Growth:

Human Sexuality Resource Specialist

jessica.pafumi@intervarsity.org