

Homosexuality

Listed Scriptures

Gen 19:1–11; Lev 18:22, 20:13; Jdgs 19:22–29; 1 Cor 6:9; Mt 4:1–4

Lesson Aim

- 1) To enable our students to understand that homosexuality is a sin.
- 2) To enable our students to understand that any hint of homosexuality is a sin to God.

Memory Verse

“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” (Ps 119:160)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Proverbs 25–27

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Due to the nature of this lesson, there is no Bible background information available.

W A R M U P



The topic that we're going to study is a rather sensitive topic. It is sensitive because in the society that we live in today, any judgments made regarding this topic can be considered politically incorrect and may even spur some negative responses. We may even have friends who hold very strong views about this issue. Whatever the background we each bring to the lesson today, let us have a heart of humility and reverence towards God and learn from the Bible what God says about this issue, homosexuality.

Teaching Tips

The topic in today's lesson is very sensitive. It is important that as teachers, we pray for wisdom and gentleness in approaching and discussing this topic with our students. Depending on the students and the kind of environment they are from, we may get some very strong views. It is crucial that we handle everyone's views in a firm but gentle way, without compromising the principles of the Bible. The effectiveness of this lesson depends in large part on the teacher-student and student-student discussions. Teachers should be mentally prepared to keep the discussion on track and guided by biblical principles

B I B L E S T U D Y



Homosexuality

A. The Different Views

What are some of the views about homosexuality that you have heard? (Let students respond candidly, sharing the views of people in church as well as outside of the church.) As with many issues, we can approach it from various angles, including a socio-political perspective, a moral-religious perspective or even physiological perspective. Some of the stands that have been expressed in recent decades about homosexuality include the following:

- a. Homosexuality is a sin before God.
- b. Homosexuality is the result of biological and genetic make-up, so homosexuals really cannot help themselves and should therefore be accepted as they are.
- c. Homosexuality is the result of an overly liberated society where anything goes and judgments are simply politically incorrect, so we should refrain from judging anyone.
- d. Homosexuality is a personal choice.

No matter what has been or is being said, no matter who is saying what, this is an issue that has been mentioned in the Bible since the creation. That means God does have standards and requirements where this area is concerned. God's word never changes. As Christians, we have to understand that what the world says about this issue may change with the trends of society and even with new reports from various researchers in the field of genetics. However, the standard of God will never change.

Let us study today what the Bible says about this issue and then we will discuss why we should resist this act of abomination and how we can approach it in a Christian manner.

B. What the Bible Says

The Bible makes it very clear that homosexuality is a sin. Let's take a look at some of the sections in the Bible that mention this issue:

a. Genesis 19:1-11

- i. What was the state of morality in the city of Sodom at that time? (The city's people were so depraved that there were less than ten righteous people to be found (Gen 18:32) and that's why God sought to destroy it.)
- ii. What did the men in the city try to do when the two angels of God visited Lot's house? (They wanted to commit homosexual acts with the angels of God.)
- iii. What was the end of this depraved city (ref Gen 18:17-20; 19:24, 25)? (It was burned by sulphur from heaven.)
- iv. Do you see a resemblance between the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the world that we live in today? Does the ending of Sodom serve as a warning to us today? (In our world today, we see a lot of sexual immorality just like what was in

Sodom. The people are not repentant of what they are doing but instead, take pride in it and seek to continue. Just as Sodom was destroyed, God will destroy this sinful world.)

b. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

- i. Homosexuality is not a phenomenon of modern society only. As we can see, in the period of the Old Testament there were already warnings from God against this sin. What does this tell us about the laws of God across the ages? (God's laws never change. What is a sin in the Old Testament is still a sin today. What God considers abominable in the past, He still considers them abominable.)
- ii. Do you think people in the Old Testament thought of explanations to justify the act of homosexuality? What types of justification do you think they used? Are those excuses similar to those we hear today? (The common reason for homosexuality is that one is born with such a tendency. Well, everyone in the flesh has physical tendencies and desires. We cannot simply say that because we're born with weaknesses, we can therefore indulge in those weaknesses. God has called us into light and will help us to overcome our weaknesses if we want to obey Him. We should also fight against our desires and rely on the Holy Spirit to bring our desires under our subjection.)

c. Judges 19:22-29

- i. What are some of the atrocious and barbaric acts that are recorded in this section? (They committed homosexual acts, rape and murder. It was almost like these people were insane.)
- ii. We can see that the people were living in a very depraved generation. Do you see any similarities between that period and our world today? (Around us today, we see or know of friends who commit all kinds of sins. In the news, we read about and hear of many evil things being committed – rape, murder, torture etc.)
- iii. Read Judges 21:25 – “In those days, there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” What does this verse and the section you have just read tell you about the necessity of obeying God's word in a depraved generation? (If everyone does what he thinks is right, there is no standard and everyone can do whatever they want. Our world today resembles such a state. It is very sad. Ethics and morals are so subjective. We must therefore rely on a standard of morality and ethics – God's teachings. Otherwise, we see chaos.)

- iv. As a child of God, what do you think your role is in this end-time where almost everyone does what is right in his own eyes? (We have to keep ourselves unspotted from this world. We must not do what people in this world are doing. In addition, we should preach the gospel and save the people around us from destruction.)

d. 1 Corinthians 6:9

- i. During the time of apostle Paul, homosexuality was obviously something in existence. What does Paul say about homosexuality? (Homosexuals cannot inherit the kingdom of God.)
- ii. From the Old Testament to the apostolic times, God's word on homosexuality has never changed. What does it say about God's stand on this issue in our days? (Today, no matter what people claim, no matter what research says, and no matter how laws are changes, God is still against homosexuality.)



C. Overcoming Our Weaknesses

Today, there is a lot of talk that homosexuality should be accepted as a part of the physiological limitations or needs of a certain group of people. There are research reports claiming that homosexual inclinations are the result of the genetic make-up in a person (but there is also research that claims the contrary). Some have even gone so far as to say that we should accept homosexuality as a part of human nature just as we accept other physiological needs like hunger and heterosexual desires.

In the face of so many different schools of thought, how should we view or defend the Bible's stance on this issue? The one answer lies in OBEDIENCE!

We have studied earlier that God does not approve of homosexuality. Even if it really is a human limitation, physiologically, there is no reason to condone homosexuality as something permissible. It is the same principle as not condoning having multiple sexual partners. In fact, one characteristic that distinguishes human beings from animals is the fact that we know how to control our instincts. One of the reasons why the world has so many problems is that man has lost self-control in many things. We see many families breaking up as a result of one parent (or both parents) deciding to have an extra-marital partner. Hearts are broken when one party in a relationship decides that he does not love the other party anymore and wants to have a relationship with someone else. Responsibility and control are

two virtues on the decline in our world today.

The greatest act of obedience to God's teaching is when we deny our physical needs so as to fulfill the will of God. If we do not have the physical weaknesses, we will naturally not do certain things that are wrong. Where then does the role of obedience come in? Obedience comes into the picture only when we resist our own fleshly desires and choose to obey God's laws. One simple example is the act of throwing tantrums when we are angry. It is a natural response when we are angry to speak spitefully, or even, as some children and adults do, retaliate physically. But, if we know the teachings of God and choose to obey, we will keep our anger in check and deal with the situation in a way acceptable in the eyes of God. That is what obedience is about.

We will take a look at two examples of obedience: Job in the Old Testament and the Lord Jesus in New Testament.

a. Read Job 1:9-2:10

- i. What was the problem with Job, according to the devil's accusations before God?
(That God had protected him and blessed him, and that's why Job has every reason to praise and worship God.)
- ii. When Job lost everything he had, including his own children, he was surely entitled to question and curse God. But he did not. What did he say instead? ("Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." and "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?")
- iii. Job left for us a great example of how one can resist physical urges and choose to stand by God, thereby defeating the very ploy of the devil. Explain in your own words how Job's case illustrates for us the definition of obedience.
(We obey no matter what the circumstances are.)

b. Read Matthew 4:1-4

- i. When did the devil come up with the first temptation for the Lord Jesus?
(After Jesus Christ had fasted forty days and nights, and was hungry and physically weak.)
- ii. How was the Lord Jesus at His weakest point physically at that time?

(As a human being, after not having had food or drink for forty days and nights, one is surely weak and food is tempting.)

- iii. The devil says, "If you are the Son of God..." – do you think the Lord Jesus has the power to turn the stones into bread? Do you think the Lord Jesus has a good reason to do so, if He really did? Explain your answer.
(Yes, as God, the Lord could have turned stones to bread to feed Himself. But, he would not be tempted by the devil.)
- iv. The Lord Jesus had a good reason physically to turn the stones into bread – He was hungry after having fasted forty days and nights. He also had the power to do so – He was God Himself! Yet, He set for us an example of how to resist all physical reasons. What does this say about our approach towards the issue of homosexuality and even more generally, the issue of sexual immorality?
(Even though one may be physically pre-disposed towards homosexuality, one should resist this weakness and fight it, instead of using it as an excuse to sin.)

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1

What types of sins were in existent in Sodom and Gomorrah?

2

What was the "principle" guiding the lives of the people during the time of the judges? What was wrong with that "principle"?

3

Paraphrase the content of these verses: Leviticus 18:22, 20:13.

4

What does 1 Corinthians 6:9 say about the end of homosexuals?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

What Would You Say?



Part A- The following confession comes from a homosexual who turned down a church member's invitation to come to church. His name has of course been changed. He did not want to turn to God or the church because he believes that the church does not understand the position of people like

him. Read his story and then write a short passage of encouragement to him. Then, share with your classmates about how we can best approach people who are homosexuals.

Kevin's story:

I realized that I was a homosexual when I was 12. Actually, prior to that, teachers had talked to my mom telling her that I seemed to get along much better with girls at school than with the boys. I am more sensitive to feelings and emotional things. I feel that I can talk to girls like I am one of them; I understand their emotional upheavals and I go through moods like them too, sometimes.

My mother and sister accepted me as I am. They have always doted on me, being the youngest. All these years, since I declared myself a homosexual at 12, they have never treated me any worse. I really appreciate that Some people say it's something in the genes. I really don't know. I just know that I am more attracted to guys than I am to girls. Maybe it's because my father left my mom when I was only 3, so I grew up with my mom, sister and my aunts. There was a lot of feminine influence as I was growing up. But, I would say that it's also something I have sort of chosen. It's the easier way for me. I can't really visualize myself doing otherwise. It's a mixture of genetics and environment, I believe.

Church ... do you really believe that what the Bible says about homosexuals is to be taken literally? Then, I don't think I can ever become a Christian, because I am what I am and I will never be anything else.

What is your advice and response?

Part B- Mini-debate

Read 1 Peter 3:15 and Titus 1:9. As children of God, we should "sanctify the Lord God in [our] hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks [us] a reason for the hope that is in [us], with meekness and fear." It is therefore important to be able to know why we believe what we do. Today, we'll do a mock-debate on the topic of whether homosexuality is to be condoned.

Topic: "Homosexuality should be condoned and accepted by the church."

Procedure:

1. Divide the class into two groups.
2. Either by drawing names or by choice of the students, have one group repre-

sent the proposition and the other group the opposition.

3. Based on what has been covered in the lesson today, as well as any materials/ideas they have come across outside of this lesson, students should come up with a defense for the side that they are on.
4. Have each group brainstorm and work on the speeches together, and then select three or four speakers each to represent their respective positions.
5. Conduct a mock mini-debate, with each speaker not talking for more than two minutes.

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



We have studied today that homosexuality is a sin. There is no doubt about it. But this does not mean we start going around and rejecting homosexuals. Instead, we should have the heart of our Lord Jesus, to want to reach out to them, to help them. There are a lot of people out there in our world, even in our immediate environment, who are in need of God. The devil has the world held under his sway. When we see a sinner, we must distinguish between the sin and the sinner. When the Lord Jesus came to this world, He came to save sinners. Once, when He was seen eating with tax collectors and sinners, the Pharisees asked His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" The Lord Jesus' reply was: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Mt 9:11, 12). Today, are we like the Pharisees who do not care to associate with sinners? Or, are we true Christians who will bring the sick to the Great Physician, our Lord Jesus?

May God grant us wisdom and love to reach out to all types of people, that the kingdom of God may reach more people!