



**YOUTH  
EDITION**



# Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 1  
**Why This, Why Now?**



# Note to Discussion Sessions

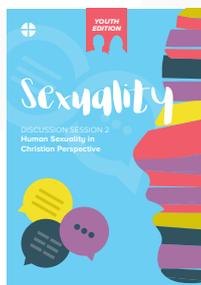
The following discussion session is part of a 4 series programme which has been designed to be used in a group from a local congregation or circuit. You can decide how much or how little of the suggested format to use. You know your context best. Please, modify or adapt the sessions as you see fit for the comfort level of your participants. If the full plan is followed, you should allow an hour to an hour and a half for each of the four sessions, which might easily be scheduled one night a week for a month.

The session guides are complements to and assume that participants will have read 'Sexuality – Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions' or the relevant sections of the document for each session prior to attendance. If your group does not wish to work in this way, you may plan to have some copies of the document on hand for people to review the relevant sections over a cup of tea/coffee prior to the start of the session.

## Session 1 Why This, Why Now



## Session 2 Human Sexuality in Christian Perspective



## Session 3 Discussing Homosexuality



## Session 4 What Should We Do next



🌐 All of these can be downloaded from [www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS](http://www.irishmethodist.org/WPHS)

# Sexuality

DISCUSSION SESSION 1

**Why This, Why Now?**



## You Will Need:

- ✓ A copy of 'Sexuality - Developing Good Conversation on Difficult Questions' for each participant
- ✓ A Bible for each participant
- ✓ Handout 'Four Wesleyan Sources' for each participant
- ✓ 'One anothers' list for each participant
- ✓ Flip chart, white board or power point and projector
- ✓ Sheets of coloured stickers

### PRAYER

Open the Session with prayer.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

 10 mins

#### To the leader:

The purpose of this activity is to get the group talking and thinking about the reputation of the church outside of the church and to help recognise that there are things that need to be thought about and done to shift people's opinions.

#### Instructions:

1. Put your young people into pairs and ask them to think about the following questions.

- » What do your friends who don't go to church think about church?
- » What do your friends who don't go to church think about Jesus?

2. Get feedback from each pair and write the main points on a flip chart.

3. Once you have received all the feedback, ask the pairs to discuss and decide which 2 things we as the church should be most worried about?

4. If your group is ready to have a full group discussion, ask them to share why they chose these two.

5. Leave this on the wall as a backdrop to the rest of the session.

### ESTABLISHING A GOOD BASIS

#### FOR DIALOGUE

 30 mins

Show the video clip provided to introduce the next section. – 'Good conversations.'

#### To the leader:

This section invites the young people to think about how they will talk to one another about things they may disagree on and what influences the decisions they make. You will be using the 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral' as a frame for theological thinking and decision making in Methodist communities.

#### Instructions:

1. After watching the video – ask the young people to tell you what was good about the good conversation and what was bad about the bad conversation?

See the one anothers list – Hand out the list and some pens and ask the young people to highlight which of these commands of Jesus they think would help good conversation? Get some feedback...

Use a flip chart page to capture the young people's thoughts on the below question

What three/four things do we need to promise each other we will do so that we are trying our best to have good conversation over the next few weeks?

2. With the help of the information provided (Four Wesleyan Sources for Theology) explain the Wesleyan quadrilateral to the young people.

**To the leader:**

After the explanation you will be using the four corners of the room to help the young people engage with the four Wesleyan sources. To prepare for this, you will need four pages, one for each source to stick up in each corner. An easy way to help young people remember the four sources is to use the acronym REST, Reason, Experience, Scripture and Tradition.

To illustrate the four sources to the young people you could use the following example, you could walk around each corner as you explain it.

» **Should women be leaders and ministers in the church?**

**Tradition:** what has the Christian Church traditionally thought about this?

**Example answer:** I know some churches don't allow women to be leaders, it's just men.

**Scripture:** what does the Bible say about this, find some examples from scripture if you can.

**Experience:** what has your experience been of woman in leadership roles?

**Example answer:** we heard Heather Morris at Autumn soul –she's a minister... We have a female youth leader...

**Reason:** what do you think?

**Example answer:** I think women make great leaders because...

 **LOLLIPOP STICK EXERCISE**

 **15 mins**

**You will need a jam jar and blank lollipop sticks. Write a controversial question on each stick for example...**

- » Can Christians drink alcohol?
- » Do miracles still happen today?
- » Is it ok for Christians to swear?
- » Should Christians go to a night club?
- » Should Christians tell dirty jokes?
- » Jesus fact or fiction?
- » Is it possible to hear God's voice?

Split your group into 4 and ask each group to come and pick out a lollipop stick question. Send each group to a different corner of the room and have a sheet with one of the four sources written on it, stuck up in each corner. Ask them to answer the question in light of the corner they are standing in.

Once they have visited every corner – give them the handout and ask them to quickly scribble down their thoughts to each question.

And then answer the question – which source influences what they believe the most?

Explain that over the next few sessions we will be thinking about human sexuality using the four corners.

## THE SEXUALISATION OF

### WESTERN CULTURE

 15 mins

#### To the leader:

Introduce this section by explaining that you have already been thinking about questions that Christians disagree on. We are going to begin now to discuss another topic that Christians also disagree about – human sexuality.

#### Instructions:

Arrange a 'vote with your body' poll. Choose three areas of the room. One will represent 'Agree'. One will represent 'Disagree' and one will represent 'Undecided/unsure'. Read each statement and give people a chance to move to the place that represents their perspective. If people feel comfortable explaining their response, welcome this. Alternatively, you can offer people a chance to reflect on the exercise afterwards.

1. Sexual images in media and advertising have a negative impact on our thinking about sex and our bodies.
2. The church needs to say more about sex.
3. Pornography is only a bit of fun.
4. Sexual pressures on young people are higher than they used to be.
5. Technology is to blame for the increase in sexually explicit media.
6. Christians have no right to say what is right and wrong about sex and marriage to those who don't go to church.
7. Young people have different attitudes than their parents and grandparents about homosexuality.
8. I don't know why other Christians in the church are getting worked up about sex, it's not a big deal.

## SECRET QUESTIONS

 5 mins

Bring a question box... ask each young person to write a question and put it in the box. These will be dealt with in another session.

- » If you could ask any question about sex and sexuality what would it be?

## EVALUATION

Post-it evaluation

- » One colour for something you liked.
- » One colour for something you didn't understand.

## PRAYER

**Close the Session with prayer.**

# Four Wesleyan Sources for Theology



## SCRIPTURE

### *What Does the Bible Say?*

- » Interpreted by Reason
- » Received through Tradition
- » Engaged with in our own experience



## REASON

### *Using the Minds God Gave Us*

- » Shaped by our encounters with Scripture, our religious tradition and our experience.



## TRADITION

### *What has the Christian Faith said?*

- » Formed as interpretation of Scripture
- » Assumes the powers of reason
- » Involves the experiences of many prior Christians.



## EXPERIENCE

### *What does my journey with God, and yours, teach us?*

- » Values the individuals within the tradition.
- » Highlights our own encounters with the God of the Scriptures.

Which source influences what you believe the most?

‘The phrase which has relatively recently come into use to describe the principal factors that John Wesley believed illuminate the core of the Christian faith for the believer. Wesley did not formulate the succinct statement now commonly referred to as the Wesley Quadrilateral. Building on the Anglican theological tradition, Wesley added a fourth emphasis, experience. The resulting four components or “sides” of the quadrilateral are (1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience. For United Methodists, Scripture is considered the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine. Tradition is experience and the witness of development and growth of the faith through the past centuries and in many nations and cultures. Experience is the individual’s understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own life. Through reason the individual Christian brings to bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought. These four elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.’

Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press. Accessed online <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/wesleyan-quadrilateral> 24.11.16

# 'one Anothers' of the New Testament

1. "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
2. "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
3. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
4. "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
5. "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
6. "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
7. "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
8. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
9. "...Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)
10. "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
11. "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
12. "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
13. "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
14. "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
15. "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
16. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
17. "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
18. "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
19. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
20. "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
21. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other." (Galatians 5:15)
22. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)
23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
24. "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
25. "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
26. "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
27. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)
28. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
29. "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
30. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)
31. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
32. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)
33. "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
34. "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
35. "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
36. "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
37. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
38. "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
39. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
40. "Encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13)
41. "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
42. "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
43. "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
44. "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
45. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
46. "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)
47. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)
48. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)
49. "...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)
50. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)
51. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)
52. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (I Peter 5:5)
53. "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)
54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)
55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)
56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)
57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)
58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)
59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)