

CHASING LOVE

A LETTER TO LEADERS

Leaders,

Thank you for trusting the Lord as you walk with students through *Chasing Love*. Our desire behind this study is to give you a gospel-centered tool as you help students navigate love, sex, dating, and more. In fact, we pray that your students will walk away from this 9-session study:

- understanding and embracing God's design for love, relationships, and sexuality.
- seeing that they're never beyond God's forgiveness and grace.
- knowing how to engage the LGBTQ conversation with both compassion and biblical clarity.
- responding in compassion to those who have been abused or who believe differently.

While this may not be the easiest Bible study you lead as a student ministry leader, it will have eternal value. As you begin preparing for this study, we wanted to provide you with a few tips and suggestions in order to provide the best experience for students.

- 1. Inform parents of your plan with this Bible study.** You could host a parent meeting or send out a detailed letter like this. Either way, the most important thing is that you let them know what they can expect their students to be learning about and why you believe it is so important for them to participate in this Bible study. We have provided a sample Letter to Parents as well as a session-by-session Parent Guide to help them know exactly what their students are studying each week.
- 2. Determine your audience.** This will require you to study the material on your own before you begin. We recommend walking through the entire study before you even begin Session 1. It is good for you as a leader to know what your students will hear and read in order to discern if they are at the appropriate age and maturity level. While we have provided you with this biblically rooted resource, only you can make the final decision on what is appropriate for your unique group of students. In fact, it may be wise to invite a few parents or other pastors to speak into your decision.
- 3. Plan, prepare, and pray.** This is the kind of Bible study that we don't recommend "winging" the night before. There are critical issues and questions that will be addressed that students need biblical guidance on. While Sean McDowell is a faithful teacher of the Word and addresses many things that students are facing, he won't cover all of their questions. Plan and prepare for what students might ask. There are many helpful videos Sean has provided for you as the leader located under "Bonus Content" on the DVD. Finally, pray that the Lord gives you wisdom, clarity, and love as you lead these students.
- 4. Take a deep breath!** There will be challenging topics that you may never have thought you would talk about with students. But, the Lord is not going to leave you to lead this study on your own. You don't have to be an expert or have all the answers. Give yourself grace to take time to research and to ask other people if you don't know the right answer.

We have prayed for you countless times while preparing this Bible study, and we believe the Lord is going to use you in a mighty way. We encourage you to reach out at customerservice@lifeway.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheering you on,

LifeWay Students