

# Your Teen Has Come Out

**We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19**

Approaching your teen who has come out as LGBTQ with biblical truth and love is essential. Your response should reflect both your commitment to the teachings of Scripture and your unconditional love for your child. Navigating this conversation requires wisdom to uphold your beliefs while ensuring your child feels loved. It's important to communicate in a way that keeps the doors of dialogue open, fostering a relationship where your teen feels comfortable discussing his or her thoughts and struggles without fear of rejection. Remember, maintaining a strong, loving relationship with your teen is key to providing the guidance and support he or she truly needs during this time.

## ➤ **conversation starter**

I want you to know that I love you and nothing will change that. Can we talk about what your experience means to us as a family and in our faith?

It's important for me to share my faith from a biblical perspective with you, but I also want to hear your thoughts and feelings. How can we have this conversation in a way that is respectful and open?

## ➤ **navigating the conversation:**

- **Communicate Your Unconditional Love:** Begin by communicating your unconditional love for your teen. Make it clear that your love will not change regardless of his or her feelings about identity or sexual orientation.
- **Express Commitment to Dialogue:** Emphasize your commitment to ongoing dialogue. Let your child know that you are there to listen and discuss, not to preach or dictate.
- **Share Biblical Truths:** Approach the topic of biblical truth. Acknowledge that while you hold certain beliefs based on Scripture, you want to share these truths with compassion and understanding.
- **Listen and Understand His or Her Perspective:** Show a genuine effort to understand his or her perspective. This doesn't mean you have to agree.
- **Pray Together:** Offer to pray together for guidance, understanding, and peace for both of you.
- **Use Respectful and Loving Language:** Be mindful of your language and tone. Avoid words or phrases that might be hurtful or alienating.
- **Maintain a Spirit of Humility:** Acknowledge that this is a challenging topic, and you are learning how to navigate it as led by the gospel.
- **Involve Trusted Faith Leaders:** Involve a licensed Christian counselor and/or trusted pastor or church leader in the conversation, especially if they have experience in counseling on these matters.

