

Follow-up to discussion evening 1: suggested questions for groups

Look at the chart giving 5 different points of view on same-sex relationships.

Go through each point of view in turn. What positive reasons might people give for that point of view?

What factors, other than their understanding of Scripture, might lead people to that point of view?

If you're willing and able to, say which of these 5 views is closest to your own current thinking?

Look at the survey results from our congregation.

What surprises you (if anything) from the results?

How does that make you feel?

What hopes or fears do you have for us as St James' by the Park?

Think about Andrew & Gerhard's story (the gay couple – one English, one South African).

What stood out to you from this story?

Be curious – what would you like to ask them?

Look back at Lena's presentation.

What new connections or understandings did you discover?

What questions would you want to ask?

Think about Luke's story (the gay man who is now celibate).

What stood out to you from his story?

Be curious – what would you like to ask him?

Look back at Dan's presentation.

What new connections or understandings did you discover?

What questions would you want to ask?

Some people have already submitted questions via the anonymous survey. Feel free to ask any further questions via your cell group leaders, who will have an opportunity to feed them in at the cell leaders' gathering on 11th June. Lena and Dan will try to address more of the questions at the second discussion evening on 21st June.

Spend time praying:

- For LGBTQ+ people in the church, many of whom have been badly hurt by churches (including ours) in the past
- For humility to go on learning and listening through these discussions, and for humility to submit our views and experiences to God's word.
- For alertness to the way the devil (a prowling lion) would like to use these discussions to bring disunity and division in our church and the Church of England
- For God's Spirit to convict us of any wrong attitudes or beliefs in this area
- For our church, that we would learn how to 'love each other deeply' despite our disagreements
- For God's Spirit to help us reimagine how he wants us (St James' by the Park and the Church of England) to be church for people who identify as LGBTQ+
- For Simon Clift and others on General Synod, who will have further debates on the proposed prayers of blessing (and pastoral guidance documents) in July and November