

Helping our kids understand and be guided through the conversations surrounding LGBTQ+ is both difficult and complex. This is why we appreciate the work of **Harvest USA** and their strategies for talking with your child about LGBTQ+ identity. Utilize the framework below to slowly – not all at once – engage in the many conversations this topic will inevitably bring up.

<https://harvestusa.org/how-to-talk-with-your-kids-about-lgbtq-identity/#.Xp-zBy85Tok>

We have the opportunity to honor Christ most when we speak with truth surrounding God's design for sex and gender with grace. Speaking the truth in love generally occurs within the context of relationship—one friend humbly and graciously engaging in life with the other.

Here are nine ways to begin that process with your child:

1. Adopt a zero-tolerance policy on bullying and cyberbullying

Bullying has no place among God's people. Teach your child to prayerfully take a stand to defend his or her LGBTQ+ friend or loved one from acts of injustice.

2. Teach your child how to pray for his or her LGBTQ+ friend or loved one, and pray together as a family.

Pray first and foremost that the friend or loved one would know Christ, and form a relationship with Him, and grow to love and trust Jesus as Savior.

3. Speak with your child in age-specific ways about God's design for sex and gender.

Even young children can begin to grasp the goodness and design of sexuality and gender that God created. Children can learn how to befriend and stand up for others, without accepting the untruth that their peers believe.

4. Talk about the immutability of gender—that people don't change from one gender to another as they grow.

Who they are as a gendered being today is who they will be for the rest of their life. Children—particularly young children—often learn about gender and their particular roles in social groups through play. Don't discourage children from play-acting as members of the opposite gender. But, remind them of the difference between play and reality. There is inherent goodness in embracing one's God-given gender.

5. Discuss gender roles with your child.

Explain that just because a boy likes to engage in activities that might be culturally classified as “feminine,” like baking, crafting, or taking care of children, that doesn’t mean he’s any less of a boy. The same goes for girls who enjoy activities that might be culturally “masculine.”

6. Help your child resist the temptation to be judgmental toward others.

Even though it is sinful to self-identify as transgender, remind your child that he or she is a sinner, too, in need of the same grace to be saved and to repent as his or her peer! This can be a way to encourage your child to begin to understand his or her own need of Christ.

7. Make sure that you show respect for your child’s peer in your attitude, words, and actions.

Don’t mock or exclude the other child. Invite him or her into your home. Treat him or her as you would any other of your child’s peers. Your child will model his or her own attitudes after your own.

8. Ask your child if he or she has ever been confused about sex, sexuality, or gender.

Invite them to share those questions with you. Encourage them that feelings never equal identity. Identity comes only from God, the Creator.

9. Invite your child to dialogue with you about friends, classmates, or family members who have adopted an LGBTQ+ identity

Ask them what they think about their friends or loved ones living in alternate lifestyles. If they think it’s OK, you’ll need to do more teaching to show them what Scripture affirms. Be patient in explaining. The culture is daily sending out persuasive worldviews.