

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Film 2 of God's Beautiful Story



CEEC

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
EVANGELICAL COUNCIL

LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS KNOW BEST

The following comments/suggestions are not intended to be prescriptive – each church leader knows his/her context better than anyone else and is therefore the person best placed to make a decision about what would help/be appropriate for the people in that context.

The following suggestions are therefore simply offered as **options** – or in the hope that they will **generate further ideas** that might be appropriate for your context.

AIM IN SHOWING THE FILM

To give people in your church confidence that a biblical discussion around issues of human sexuality can be done well and safely, and to give some examples of what that might look like.

KEY THEME/MESSAGE

... here are the stories/comments of some church leaders who have helped their churches to think, talk about and explore a biblical approach to matters of human sexuality.

HOW TO USE 'STARTING THE CONVERSATION'

Why not show it to your **PCC, wardens or staff** to generate a **(30 minute) conversation** about :

- What can we say/do/put in place to make sure we have 'kind' conversations with each other about issues of gender, identity and sexuality?
- Is there anything said on the film that could help us hold good/purposeful/safe conversations in our church ?
- What are the questions that we need to talk about/explore as a church ?

Show the film on a **Sunday** and invite people to put **anonymous questions into a box** (at the back of church) – and promise/plan to address them in a future sermon/meeting.

Show it to the people in your **discussion group(s)** and ask :

- What questions do you want us to think about ?
- What do you want to be said/made clear in any bible teaching/preaching about human sexuality (preachers – listen carefully !)

Use it **yourself** – to ask :

- What questions would I find it difficult to answer ? And then prepare answers
- How can my teaching/preaching in this area be more 'humble' ?

Show the film on **Sunday** and then **promote several resources** (from the front – on paper – via social media and other means) to help people explore questions for themselves :

- Books'A war of loves' (David Bennett) , 'The Plausibility Problem' (Ed Shaw)
- Websites – Living Out (www.livingout.org , www.ceec.info)
- Videos – The Beautiful Story (available on www.ceec.info)

OUTCOMES YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

This film is intended to:

- Give confidence that discussion about human sexuality will be good for your church
- Offer examples of what several churches have done to facilitate discussion of these issues
- Give you 'permission' to launch discussion in your church
- Generate a conversation as to how you can best hold discussions/teach about issues of sexuality in your church
- Prompt an increased discussion of matters of sexuality within the overall life of the church .

FURTHER RESOURCES THAT MIGHT HELP

Living Out have made available a couple of sermons from Ed Shaw and an animated film – all of which you are free to use :

<https://www.livingout.org/resources/posts/77/teaching-purposeful-sexuality>