

RUSH parents,

On 11/13/19, our students had the awesome privilege of hearing a personal story from someone who has struggled with same-sex attraction and how he has found hope in Christ. They also heard from his best friend – the one who loved him, walked with him, and spoke truth into his life. She shared about how we as believers can love those around us, even when we may not agree with them. The story is one of incredible life change, and the kind of story that we celebrate as a church.

We know this is a very controversial topic; however, it is something we know many of our students are hearing about (or being taught) in their schools, or even dealing with personally. But we are not a church, or a youth group, that ignores tough topics. Instead, our goal each week is to provide students with a biblical approach to these issues, even when they go against our culture or popular opinion.

In the weeks following this powerful story, we will be addressing the topics of gender and sexuality in more detail (High School on 11/20 and Middle School on 11/27). One of our goals is to partner with parents in the spiritual shepherding of our students. As a result, and in the interest of transparency, we wanted you to be aware so you can be prepared to address any questions that your students may come home with. We recently heard a sermon by Dr. David Platt that addresses these important issues, and we would highly recommend taking an hour of your time to listen to this sermon, as it would be a great way to help facilitate conversation with you and your teens!

<https://radical.net/podcast/sexuality-in-our-culture-an-open-door-for-the-gospel/>

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns you'd like to discuss with us as we dive into this important topic. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in shepherding your children towards Christ!

J.R. Lindsay, Christina Katsma, and Mary Graves
RUSH Youth Ministry

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