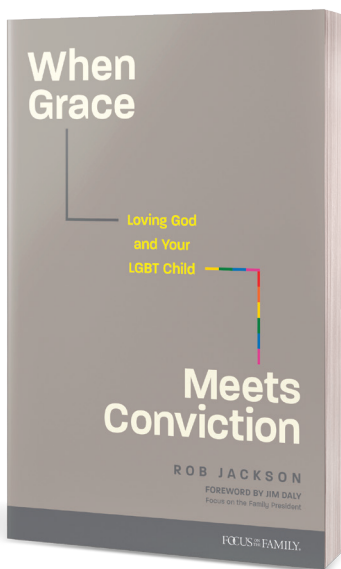


Top 3 Most- Asked

Questions Parents Ask When a Child Comes Out



When Grace Meets Conviction is an essential resource for Christian parents wondering how to respond when a child identifies as LGBT. The book includes 100 questions and answers based on thousands of counseling-center calls. Here are the top three most-asked questions.



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Question 1

How do I talk with a child who comes out to me?

When your child tells you they identify as LGBT, it lands hard and leaves you disoriented. Even if you suspected it, hearing the words out loud moves the *maybe* to the *this-is-what-I-have-dreaded-to-hear* moment. What you say in the first few minutes will set the tone and tempo for future conversations, and you're the one who can make a significant difference. So before you reach for the right words, take a breath. You don't have to solve anything right now. In this moment, what your child needs to know is that you're still their parent and that you won't abandon them or kick them to the curb.

That said, staying present doesn't mean staying silent forever. The conversation that begins in a text, in a phone call, or by your discovery will continue for months and years, and it deserves to be grounded in something deeper than managed tolerance or reluctant acceptance. It deserves to be grounded in truth and grace—not one at the expense of the other. Learning how to hold both is exactly what this journey asks of you. You don't have to have it figured out today. But you do have to stay present.

Question 26

How can I love and support my child without affirming behaviors that contradict my faith?

Loving God and your LGBT-identifying child aren't in conflict, despite what you may hear elsewhere.

Jesus had a remarkable capacity to be fully present with people whose lives were ordered around things He didn't affirm—and His presence never signaled approval. It signaled something rarer and harder to manufacture: that the person in front of Him mattered more than the argument He could have won.

That doesn't make this easy or clean. There will be things you participate in and things you don't,

and your child will feel the difference. Being honest about that without being cold is one of the hardest things this journey will ask of you. But the goal was never to manage the situation perfectly. The goal is faithfulness—to God and to your child—and those two callings are not nearly as opposed to each other as you've been led to believe. Learning to hold both, without collapsing into either, is what *When Grace Meets Conviction* is written to help you do. In this book, you'll see how your allegiance to God helps you stay faithful to God and present with your child.

Question 62

It frightens me that my gay- or trans-identifying child has threatened suicide. How concerned should I be?

Take any threat of suicide seriously, without exception. *Better safe than sorry* is your guide. Even if you suspect that your child might be acting dramatic or is trying to manipulate you, this is still a cry for help, and a discreet call to 911 is the next loving thing to do. Such a threat reveals that your child is already carrying the weight of a fractured sense of self, cultural confusion, and maybe even family tension—real, imagined, or anticipated. When they say they don't want to be here anymore, that cry demands an immediate, unhurried, fully present response. Don't let the complexity of where you stand theologically slow you down in responding to where your child is emotionally. Your convictions

and your child's crisis can coexist—but in this moment, your child's safety comes first.

Beyond the immediate, a threat like this reveals that something has been unaddressed beneath the surface for longer than you've known. Loneliness, shame, the exhausting work of holding together a self that feels like it's splitting—these are real wounds that need real care, not just reassurance. Find a Christ-affirming mental health professional who can walk alongside your child, and don't pull back yourself. For many children in this place, a parent who stays close and stays engaged isn't just helpful—you're the one who fights for their safety when they cannot.