



WELCOMING RELIGIOUS RESOURCES

Often questions of religion arise when gay and lesbian topics are discussed. Religion encompasses a broad spectrum of beliefs and understandings. Although educators, students and parents may not agree on their religious beliefs, it is important to foster an atmosphere of respect and a school environment that is safe and inclusive for all.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

“All God’s Children,” Melany Burrill, God Loves Each One Ministry, 2009. www.godloveseachone.org.

“And God Loves Each One / Dios Nos Ama Por Igual,” Ann Thompson Cook, God Loves Each One Ministry. www.godloveseachone.org.

The Children Are Free: Re-Examining the Biblical Evidence on Same-Sex Relationships, Jeff Miner & John Tyler Connoley, Jesus Metropolitan Community Church, 2002.

The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart, Peter J. Gomes, HarperSanFrancisco, 2002.

Prayers for Bobby: A Mother’s Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son, Leroy Aarons, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

“Public Schools and Sexual Orientation: A First Amendment Framework for Finding Common Ground,” First Amendment Center & BridgeBuilders, March 2006.

www.firstamendmentcenter.org/PDF/sexual.orientation.guidelines.PDF.

Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America, Mel White, Simon & Schuster, 1995.

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality, Daniel A. Helminiak, Alamo Square Press, 2000.

A Whosoever Church: Welcoming Lesbians and Gay Men into African American Congregations, Gary David Comstock, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

DVD/VIDEO RESOURCES

All God’s Children, Woman Vision, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force & the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, 1996 (26 minutes). www.UnlearningHomophobia.com.

A documentary short about the black church’s embrace of African-American LGBT people as dedicated members of the spiritual family. Prominent religious leaders, family members and activists speak out about the role of the church and the importance of a commitment to equal rights and social justice for all people. Includes a classroom study guide.

For the Bible Tells Me So. Daniel Karlake. DVD, 2007 (98 minutes) www.forthetellmeso.org. *Study Guide*: www.hrc.org/issues/religion/10750.htm.

Through the experiences of five American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child.

Hineini, Coming Out in a Jewish High School, Irena Fayngold & Michael Traub, Keshet, VHS/DVD, 2005 (62 minutes). www.keshetonline.org

Tells the story of a whole community inspired and changed by one girl's courage. Chronicles Shulamit Izen's efforts to raise awareness about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues at the New Jewish High School and to create the Open House, an organization for students to discuss gender and sexual identity issues in a Jewish context. A look at how one school navigates different beliefs.

Honored by the Moon, Mona Smith, VHS, 1990 (15 minutes). www.wmm.com.

Native American lesbians and gay men speak of their unique historical and spiritual role. Within the Native American community, homosexuality was traditionally associated with the power to bridge worlds.

Maybe We're Talking About a Different God: Homosexuality & The Church, Anne Macksoud & John Ankele, VHS/DVD, 1995 (28 minutes). www.nationalfilmnetwork.com/store/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductID=177.

In Rochester, N.Y., a woman with 90 percent support from her congregation is barred from serving as a pastor of her Presbyterian church because she is a lesbian. The video presents interviews and footage of religious court hearings. One parishioner who once described himself as homophobic asks, "If this woman is thoroughly decent, how is that inconsistent with basic Christianity?"

WEB RESOURCES

Faith Positions on LGBT Topics

Information on and links to many religious faiths.

Gender Identity and Our Faith Communities: A Congregational Guide for Transgender Advocacy

HRC Religion and Faith

Institute for Welcoming Resources

National Religious Leadership Roundtable

transACTION: A Transgender Curriculum For Churches and Religious Institutions

Institute for Welcoming Resources, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

