

**BASIC GLOSSARY OF TERMS  
USED IN *IN GOD'S HOUSE***

**Sexual orientation:** deep-seated physical, emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction. Sometimes also referred to as affectional orientation or sexuality.

- **Heterosexuality:** physical, emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to the “opposite” sex
- **Homosexuality:** physical, emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to the same sex

**LGBT:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. There are many other words that LGBT individuals may use to identify themselves, including queer, homosexual, and two-spirit. The acronym LGBT is sometimes extended further, for example LGBTQIQ (adding queer, intersex, questioning).

- **Lesbian:** a woman who is physically, emotionally, romantically, and/or sexually attracted to other women
- **Gay:** a man who is physically, emotionally, romantically, and/or sexually attracted to other men
- **Bisexual:** a person who can be physically, emotionally, romantically, and/or sexually attracted to people of either sex
- **Transgender:** a person whose gender identity differs from the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with. For example, “a woman trapped in a man’s body”

**In the closet:** living in secrecy, hiding or feeling forced to hide one’s LGBT identity

**Coming out (of the closet):** ending the secrecy, revealing one’s LGBT identity

**Homophobia:** fear and intolerance of people who are homosexual, or of homosexual feelings within oneself

**Straight:** heterosexual or non-LGBT

**Ally:** Someone who advocates for and supports members of a community or group other than their own

**Reconciling (UMC) or Open and Affirming (UCC):** terms used to identify churches that have voted and made a public declaration that they welcome all persons regardless of sexual orientation to participate fully in the life of their community

**Holy Communion:** the Christian ritual of bread and wine that symbolizes membership in the Christian community

**Baptism:** the Christian ritual of water that is used to welcome a person, usually a baby, into the Christian community

**Stole:** a long strip of cloth that symbolizes Christian ministry and is traditionally worn by pastors and worship leaders

## IN GOD'S HOUSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name one moment in the film that was interesting to you. Why?
2. Do you have any questions or comments about what was said in the film?
3. What does the word "gay" mean to you? What does the word "lesbian" mean to you?
4. If a friend or family member told you that they were lesbian or gay, how would you react? Why?
5. What messages about sexuality did Oneida receive from church? How did these messages affect her?
6. Why did Harold and Ellen Kameya leave their church just because they couldn't talk about Valerie? Why is it so important to them to belong to a church community?
7. In the film, Rev. Hanaoka says that Japanese Americans were interned during World War II "...not because of what they did but because of who they were". How does this affect his view about the discrimination experienced by LGBT people?
8. A particularly painful moment for Oneida was seeing Asian Christians rallying and holding signs that read "marriage = 1 man + 1 woman". Why do you think it was particularly painful for Oneida to see Asian Christians holding these signs?
9. In the film, Rev. Hanaoka talks about Leviticus chapters 18 and 19. What does he say about the word "abomination"?
10. What does Jesus say about homosexuality in the Gospels? What stories of Jesus' ministry do you think might be relevant to the question of how Christians should treat lesbian and gay people?
11. The Christian sacraments appear in the film when Harold and Ellen Kameya talk about their daughter's baptism and when Rev. Hanaoka talks about Holy Communion. What role do these sacraments play in their stories? What role do you think the Christian sacraments can play in the spiritual life of an LGBT person or family?
12. When an Asian lesbian or gay person "comes out" to her or his family, many difficult emotional and spiritual issues may arise. How can the church support an individual or family in this process?
13. In the film, Ellen Kameya uses the term "in the closet" to describe herself and her own feelings of isolation after her lesbian daughter "came out" to her. What do you think of this?
14. In the film, Ellen Kameya tells her daughter that she can't be lesbian because she's Asian. She's never heard of an Asian lesbian before. Do you know any Asian people who have different beliefs about Asian LGBT people than about non-Asian LGBT people? What do you think?
15. Why is it important for Asian churches to identify themselves as affirming and supportive of LGBT people?

**IN GOD'S HOUSE**  
**SAMPLE WORKSHOP OR DISCUSSION STRUCTURE**

*You are welcome to use these materials and adjust them according to your community's needs. This workshop or discussion could be divided over several sessions. All suggested prayer and song texts may be modified.*

**Materials needed:**

- Handouts: Basic Glossary of Terms, Discussion Questions, and Resources
- For ritual actions: Votive candles, matches, index cards, pens or pencils, pictures of family members

**OPENING**

**Group Agreements**

- Confidentiality
- Listen to each other – wait until a person is finished talking before responding
- Respect each other – avoid personal attacks

**Prayer**

*God who loves all, open our hearts and minds to the stories that we will hear today/this evening. May these voices challenge us to see God in each other and learn to live in deeper compassion. Amen.*

**Brief individual introductions.** Facilitator invites each person to say their name and answer questions such as: What interests you about this film/topic? What do you hope to learn? What questions do you have?

**SCRIPTURE READING.** Facilitator invites a participant to read one or more of these scriptures aloud.

- Luke 11:29-37
- Matthew 22:35-40
- I Corinthians 12: 12-13
- I Corinthians 13: 4-8; 13

**SHOW FILM *In God's House*.** If time allows, also show Special Features lecture by Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Pacific School of Religion, on the question of the Bible and homosexuality (30 min.).

**REFLECTION.** Depending on group, facilitator may want to allow time for silent reflection or writing in addition to verbal reflection.

- What are your immediate feelings about the film?
- Do you relate to some of the people or stories in the film?

**DISCUSSION**

**Small Group Discussion.** Divide into small groups of 4-5.

- Read through and answer questions about "Basic Glossary of Terms Used in *In God's House*"
- Talk about film using handout "*In God's House* Discussion Questions"

**Wrap-up.** Regather entire group. Each small group reports back to the entire group highlights of their discussion and questions that might have come up. Go around the circle and ask people to briefly share how they are feeling and what they learned and to answer the questions: What invitation might God be making to me through this film/workshop? How might God be speaking to our church community?

**RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE.** Play some background music to encourage a prayerful space. Facilitator could invite participants to remember LGBT friends, family members, people they know, or people they saw in the film by lighting a candle and placing it on the altar or center table. In lieu of candles, participants could bring photographs of LGBT family members and friends or write their names on index cards and place them at the altar or center table.

**CLOSING**

**Prayer**

*Loving God, allow the stories that we have heard and the remembrances that we have offered today/tonight stories to remain in our hearts and transform our minds and actions. Amen.*

**Song: *Take Me As I Am***

*Words and music by John Bell., Copyright © 1995 Iona Community/GIA Publications, Inc.*

*Take, O take me as I am;  
Summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
And live in me.*

## RESOURCES

### **Network on Religion and Justice for Asian and Pacific Islander LGBTs –**

[clgs.org/api](http://clgs.org/api)

Coalition of welcoming API organizations, churches, pastors, and individuals working to create visibility and connection, educate and advocate for API LGBT people of faith. Website includes list of welcoming API churches and pastors.

### **GRACE – [www.gayasianchristians.org](http://www.gayasianchristians.org)**

Safe and confidential social and spiritual support group for API lesbian, gay, and questioning Christians and allies. Website includes upcoming gatherings in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **PANA Institute for Leadership Development and Study of Pacific and Asian North American Religion – [pana.psr.edu](http://pana.psr.edu)**

Interfaith API center of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA working to develop API leadership, foster theological and intellectual discourse and cultivate critical voices on social issues

### **Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry – [clgs.org](http://clgs.org)**

Center of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA working to advance the well-being of LGBT people and transform faith communities by shaping discourse about religion and sexuality. Website includes archive of biblical research on LGBT issues and upcoming conferences.

### **API Family Pride – [apifamilypride.org](http://apifamilypride.org)**

One-on-one and group support and resources for parents and families of API LGBT individuals

### **Gay Asian Pacific Alliance - [www.gapa.org](http://www.gapa.org)**

Organization for gay and bisexual API men in the San Francisco Bay Area

### **Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender Coalition –**

[www.apiqwtc.org](http://www.apiqwtc.org)

Networking events and resources for API queer women and transgender people in the San Francisco Bay Area

### **Asian Equality - [www.asianequality.org](http://www.asianequality.org)**

National coalition of API leaders and organizations fighting marriage discrimination

### **Queer Asian Spirit – [www.queerasianspirit.org](http://www.queerasianspirit.org)**

Organization dedicated to affirming and supporting the spiritual lives LGBTQ people of Asian descent everywhere.

### **Baptist**

- The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists – [www.wabaptists.org](http://www.wabaptists.org)

### **Catholic**

- Dignity – [dignityusa.org](http://dignityusa.org)

### **Disciples of Christ**

- Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance – [www.gladalliance.org](http://www.gladalliance.org)

### **Episcopalian**

- Integrity – [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org)

### **Latter Day Saints (Mormon)**

- Affirmation – [www.affirmation.org](http://www.affirmation.org)

### **Lutheran**

- Lutherans Concerned – [lcna.org](http://lcna.org)

### **Muslim**

- Al Fatiha – [www.al-fatiha.org](http://www.al-fatiha.org)

### **Metropolitan Community Church**

- [www.mcccchurch.org](http://www.mcccchurch.org)

### **Presbyterian**

- Covenant Network of Presbyterians – [www.covenantnetwork.org](http://www.covenantnetwork.org)
- More Light Presbyterians – [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)
- That All May Freely Serve – [www.tamfs.org](http://www.tamfs.org)

### **Quaker**

- Friends for LGBTQ Concerns – [flgbtqc.quaker.org](http://flgbtqc.quaker.org)

### **Unitarian Universalist**

- The Unitarian Universalist Association Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns – [www.uua.org/obgltc/](http://www.uua.org/obgltc/)

### **United Methodist**

- Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Concerns – [www.umaffirm.org/](http://www.umaffirm.org/)
- Reconciling Ministries Network – [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)
- United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church – [www.umoc.org](http://www.umoc.org)

### **United Church of Christ**

- UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns – [www.uccoalition.org](http://www.uccoalition.org)

### **Seventh Day Adventist**

- Seventh Day Adventist Kinship – [sdakinship.org](http://sdakinship.org)

### **Ecumenical**

- Evangelicals Concerned – [ecwr.org](http://ecwr.org)
- The Institute for Welcoming Resources – [www.welcomingresources.org](http://www.welcomingresources.org)
- The Shower of Stoles Project – [www.welcomingresources.org/sosp.htm](http://www.welcomingresources.org/sosp.htm)