Vision

Through the teaching of God’s Word we will bring people to Christ and help them to grow in him.

Mathew 28:19-20

Contents

- Parent Survey—Result
- Year 6 Assembly
- Team Sport Competition 2015
- Basketball Returns to Emmanuel
- Soup Day
- Worm Farm Comes to Kindy
- Operation Christmas Child
- School Bulletin Board
- Notice Board
- Learning Beyond the Classroom
- Community News
- Matters of the Heart

A Christian Community Must Reflect the Nature of God.

A Biblical Approach To Discipline - Part 6

SEVEN DERIVED PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE

1. Discipline should not provoke children through unfair or unjust treatment. (Eph 6:4)
2. Discipline should be aimed to help the child to correct his or her behaviour. This means that the student must understand why their behaviour is considered wrong.
3. Punishment used should be appropriate to the wrong doing; and be seen by the students as appropriate as well as fair and consistent.
4. Our approach to discipline should be motivated by ‘love’ (see 1 Cor. 13)

Some Implications of this are:-

a) The teacher shows patience & kindness
b) The teacher displays good manners towards students
c) The teachers are not to be irritable or resentful
d) The teacher is not glad when a child is caught out doing wrong.
e) The teacher is glad when a student who did wrong in the past starts doing good
f) The teacher retains optimism for even the worst child and is prepared to forgive wrong that is done and forget the past.

5. A legalistic approach to discipline is not consistent with the love of the Gospel.
6. Discipline should recognise the age and maturity of the student and should not belittle the student, through word or deed.
7. A wise teacher will establish a good relationship between teacher and class and a positive and supportive class environment. This will be aided by the following:-

i) A teacher who really cares about the students, who knows each one, who prays for them and is aware of each as an individual.
ii) A teacher who is prepared to really listen to what a child has to say. This does not mean a teacher ought to be naive or easily ‘conned’.
iii) A teacher ought to always use good manners himself and ought to expect others in the class to use good manners towards each other.
iv) A teacher who expects that the class will behave and thus is not threatening, blustering or losing control of himself.

Too often we forget that discipline really means to teach, not to punish. A disciple is a student, not a recipient of behavioral consequences.

Dr. Dan Siegel, The Whole-Brain Child

When we teach ourselves and our children discipline, we are teaching them and ourselves how to suffer and also how to grow.

(M. Scott Peck)
Thank you to the 56 families who responded to our school survey last term. Your survey results are now posted on our website and a brief summary is shown below:

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY ABOUT?
The survey asks parents and carers for their perspectives on their child’s school and what they think is important for the school to consider in better supporting their children’s educational needs and wellbeing. It also helps the school to identify areas of strength & opportunities for improvement from the perspective of Emmanuel Christian Community School parents/carers.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ANSWERS?
The answers you have provided are completely anonymous. Only summarised results are used for the purposes of informing the school planning and will help us to serve you much better.

WHAT WE LEARNED:
- Overall, parents are overwhelmingly happy with the school and children enjoys attending the school showing a very high percentile score.
- The school is also perceived very highly to value prayer, its staff members are emphatic to the students and their families and parents feel welcome in the community.
- The response also shows a good number of parents who are not aware of the role of the School Board. Please refer to your PARENTS HANDBOOK for the complete list of the role of the school board and its mission statements (Section 4.12 Pages 22 –23). If you do not have a copy of the PARENTS HANDBOOK and you would like one, please visit the school office for a copy. In a very broad term, the role of the school board is to provide strategic guidance for the school and to effectively oversee and review the school’s management.

We appreciate and thank everyone for your participation and input.
A fortnight ago, Year 6 performed their assembly. It was a stage drama titled *In Search of the Muchus Justice*, a tale inspired by actual schoolyard behavior.

It tells of the Muchus Justice hunter, Steve Lukeson and his wife Terri, who enter the child-eat-child world called the school playground. It’s here that they stumbled across many wild species of children such as the Powermonger, Queen Bee, Drones, Emo, Pusher-Innerer, Dummy Spitter, Yes Man, Gutless Wonder, Control Freak, Peace Keepers and whole host more. Steve had unorthodox ways of dealing with these little critters but it was a Muchus Justice he really wanted to find. After sadly coming to the conclusion that they must be on the brink of extinction, he finds 2 in two minutes. Not only that he gets to become Principal for a Day, armed with a lasso, hessian bag and a number of wrestling moves that would see him star in the WWF. The Year 6 students had to remember a lot of lines and actions but they managed to pull off a fabulous performance which made the exhausted director very proud.
Last term, we held Emmanuel’s annual team sport competition over a period of 6 weeks. 4 factions (Tigers, Allstars, Cougars and Rebels) made up of Years 4-7 students competed against each other in 6 different sports. A fortnight ago, directly after the Year 6 assembly, the team sport comp presentations were made. Before the winning faction for 2015 was announced, we acknowledged children who had shown fantastic sporting attitudes towards their own team members and the opposition. Not only were they awarded with certificates but they also contributed points towards their faction’s total score. We also recognized those who achieved at a high level across the 6 sports. Based on a 5 – 1 voting system, we awarded runner-up and champion awards for both boys and girls. They are listed below:

R/U Champion Girl: Joy Owuor
Champion Girl/s: Sarah Lado, Katherine Ba Oo
R/U Champion Boy/s: Nic Borbil, Bush Chuot
Champion Boy: Etienne Tshilumba

And finally, the champion team for 2015 was revealed. For the 3rd year in a row it was the Cougars. Well done to Cougars and to the captains who led them so well. We look forward to next year’s competition and to whom will take out the 2016 awards.

Final Scores

Cougars 89
Tigers 81
Allstars 74
Rebels 68

Finding good players is easy. Getting them to play as a team is another story.
Casey Stengel
After many years of performing well at Interschool Football and Soccer Carnivals, this year students from Year 5 and 6 competed in the Interschool Basketball carnival. After practicing for many lunch times, the boys and girls team headed down to Rockingham to compete. Wearing the new Emmanuel Basketball singlets, both teams were eager and excited to play.

The girl’s team had the first game, and got off to a flying start. Led by Victoria who top scored in this game, the girls won comfortably with a 22-0 win. Throughout the day the girls played well. The girls played great defence all day, with Moo and Sian intercepting many opposition passes in every game. The height of Rhoda and Yar meant that any missed shots were quickly rebounded. The speed of Mariah, Katherine and Sarah meant that there were many fast breaks throughout the day. Every girl managed to score at least in one game, and they finished the carnival 3rd overall, winning 3.

The boys also played well throughout the carnival. The first game got off to a great start, with Joel scoring a 3 pointer seconds after the game started. His scoring continued throughout the carnival. Kai was reliable in every game, scoring points and getting rebounds. The defence of Isaac G and Jordan was solid all day, and at times teams found it very hard to get the ball passed them. Darren tried hard, and used his quick speed to the teams advantage. Maker, Jesse and Ricky did well to get rebounds, often against oppositions that were much taller than them. The boys played well, and never gave up, often playing teams that had played together for years, and were much taller than Emmanuel.

Well done to both teams, and we look forward to many more basketball carnivals. Thanks also to Mrs. Bradley and Kristy for helping out on the day.

Mr. Pirie
On Tuesday the 18th of August we made soup. First we put on our chef hats and then we headed to the kitchen.

- Nasa Bamara -

We washed our hands and then we got chopping boards to chop the carrots and potatoes.

- Amira Juan-

There was Minestrone soup, Country Noodle soup, Potato and Leek soup and Pumpkin soup.

- Grace Maliet-

I chopped 8 potatoes and 3 broccoli chunks. It was a lot of work.

- Saron Ali-

We set up some tables with the soup and when it was lunch time everybody lined up to have some soup. It was all very fun.

- Lueth Mabok-

We used the vegetables from the year one garden.

- Deborah Worku-
Last Thursday afternoon the Kindy Koalas had a very special treat. Joshua Pike’s Mum, Leah, came and showed us how to put a worm farm together. Mrs Pike works in a garden shop in the northern suburbs (Masters) and donated the Worm Farm to Kindy. We had lots of fun watching, touching and feeling the worms. We learned they like the dark and eating our fruit scraps and they especially don’t like to eat orange scraps! Thank you Mrs Pike!
BRINGING JOY TO VIETNAM

When Ngo Thi Binh, a student in Year 4 at the Le Dinh Chinh School in Vietnam received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift she exclaimed, “Since I was a baby, I haven’t got gifts from anyone.”

“It is the first time I have got a gift from an unknown friend from a faraway country; moreover, there are so many things in the gift box. I am so excited! Now I have new clothes for this Tet Holiday.”

Binh had dreamed of owning a dress for a long time, but she couldn’t afford it. She praised God for providing the gift of her dreams.

Children in Vietnam and other impoverished countries often long for a simple gift that is beyond their reach. Trapped in crushing poverty, their parents struggle daily to earn enough to feed the family, so things like buying gifts for the children is a distant dream.

For kids like Ngo Thi Binh, the impact of receiving a shoebox from Operation Christmas Child will never be forgotten.

Will you join with us in God’s love to children just like Ngo Thi Binh?

See Rachelle Ashmore for more information or for gift ideas...

“Every shoebox is an opportunity to touch a child’s heart with “the love of Jesus”

Franklin Graham
International President of Samaritan’s Purse

Last Year, Emmanuel filled 34 Shoe boxes, that formed part of the 321,526 boxes from Australia and New Zealand that were given to children from 7 different countries.

This year, we hope to TRIPLE that number but we need your help!

Over the course of this term, we encourage you and your children to bring in items to place in their class buckets.

On the last day of term, we will be holding a Shoebox Packing Party where we will all pack shoeboxes together with the items that have been donated during the term.
With swimming pools and beaches a part of our Western Australian lifestyle, it is vitally important that every child learns to swim and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim is for all children over five and under 18 years old and is offered at many locations across the State.

Enrolments for VacSwim October school holiday programs opened on 3 August and close on 30 August. VacSwim’s school holiday swimming programs are conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water. This year there has been a small price increase from $10 per enrolment to $12.50 per enrolment (Family enrolment for 3 or more children living at the same address is now $34.50). For further information and online enrolment please visit [education.wa.edu.au/swimming](http://education.wa.edu.au/swimming).

**Swimming lessons**

Pre-Primary, Year 1, 2, 3

**BEGIN THIS MONDAY 31st August.**

Please remember to bring **bathers, towel** and goggles and ear plugs if needed.

**Students should wear their SPORT UNIFORM during swimming weeks and ARE NOT to wear bathers to school, but bring bathers and towel in a separate bag. (this especially avoids the embarrassment of forgetting undies!) 😊**

May we suggest you give your children a little extra to eat during swimming weeks and it can be eaten AFTER swimming.

**The lesson schedule is:**

**Group 1: Years Pre-Primary / Year 2**

Leave school 12.10 for a 12.30pm lesson, return to school approx 1.30pm

**Group 2: Years 1/3**

Leave school 12.55pm for a 1.15pm lesson, return to school approx 2.15pm

**VACSWIM OCTOBER PROGRAMS 2015**

With swimming pools and beaches a part of our Western Australian lifestyle, it is vitally important that every child learns to swim and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim is for all children over five and under 18 years old and is offered at many locations across the State.

Enrolments for VacSwim October school holiday programs opened on 3 August and close on 30 August. VacSwim’s school holiday swimming programs are conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water. This year there has been a small price increase from $10 per enrolment to $12.50 per enrolment (Family enrolment for 3 or more children living at the same address is now $34.50). For further information and online enrolment please visit [education.wa.edu.au/swimming](http://education.wa.edu.au/swimming).
### Kindergarten
- **Begins:** 8:45 AM
- **Ends:** 3:00 pm
- **Doors Open:** At 8:30 AM and at 3:00 PM

### Pre-Primary
- **Begins:** 8:30 AM
- **Ends:** 3:15 PM
- **Doors Open:** At 8:15 AM and at 3:15 PM

### Years 1 — 6
- **Begins:** 8:30 AM
- **Recess:** 10:30 — 10:50 AM
- **Lunch:** 12:10 — 1:00 PM
- **End of School:** 3:15 PM

### Year 7
- **Begins:** 8:30 AM
- **Recess:** 10:55 — 11:10 AM
- **Lunch:** 12:55 — 1:20 PM
- **End of School:** 3:15 PM

### Important Dates for Semester 2

#### Term 3
- **Thursday, 23 July:** Start of Term 3
- **Thursday, 06 August:** Assembly — Year 6
- **Friday, 07 August:** Basketball Carnival
- **Thursday, 20 August:** Assembly — Year 4
- **Monday — Friday, 31 August — 11 September:** Swimming — PP - Yr 3
- **Thursday, 03 September:** Assembly — Year 5
- **Friday, 04 September:** Father’s Day Breakfast
- **Monday, 14 September:** Parents Night
- **Thursday, 17 September:** Assembly — Pre-primary
- **Friday, 18 September:** Grade 6 Camp
- **Thursday, 24 September:** Shoe Box Packing Party (See Page 5)
- **Thursday, 24 September:** End of Term

#### Term 4
- **Monday, 12 October:** Start of Term 4
- **Friday — Sunday, 16 October — 18 October:** Year 7 Camp (Narembbeen)
- **Friday, 23 October:** Faction Carnival
- **Tuesday, 27 October:** Interschool Jump/Throw Carnival
- **Wednesday, 28 October:** Kindy — Kangaroo Assembly
- **Friday, 30 October:** Interschool Athletics
- **Thursday, 05 November:** Kindy — Koala Assembly
- **Thursday, 12 November:** Year 6 Graduation
- **Thursday, 03 December:** Concert Night
- **Friday, 04 December:** End of Year Party
- **Monday — Friday, 07 December — 11 December:** Staff Development
ABSENTEE DETAILS
If students have been away from school on any day of the week, a note from the parent or the doctor must be given to the class teacher upon return to school. Please remember to note the date and day and also the cause (e.g. sick, holidays) for the absenteeism. **SMS Message will be sent to your mobile phones as students are marked absent if no note or verbal message is received in the office on the day.** Children who arrive at school LATE or LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY should do so VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE, where attendance records will be updated. Class Rolls are submitted electronically at 9.00am and 1.00pm daily.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS!!!!
It is very important that you keep your contact details up to date for emergency reasons. We have had some incidents where your children have waited a long time in the SICK ROOM because we are unable to contact you or your details are not up to date. **PLEASE Phone 9342 7377 if your contact numbers HAVE CHANGED!**

OUR LOST & FOUND BOX IS FULL!!!!!
Come check out our box if some of the recovered items belongs to your child.

Subway Lunch Orders is BACK this Term!
Subway lunch order forms are sent to your children every fortnight. Please ensure that you return your child’s completed order forms on the scheduled **FRIDAY**. Lunch orders will be given the following **WEDNESDAY**. Date to return order forms are usually written on the subway order form.

We are sorry that **NO LATE ORDERS** can be accepted.
BANKING AT SCHOOL

Open again every THURSDAYS between 8:00—8:30am in the library. School banking is offered to all students at Emmanuel, via the Commonwealth Bank. Families are encouraged to have their children do school banking each Thursday.

Children can bank as little as 50c per week - banking each week is the key to good savings habits.

HOMEWORK CLUB

THURSDAYS: 3:30PM — 4:15PM

We have 2 adults to support the homework group, with a limit of 10 students. Please note that this is NOT TUTORING. The purpose is to provide a quiet, supervised space for students to complete homework.

We can listen to reading, encourage and support students. Thank you Mrs Smith & Miss Lahti for being there each week... Finish time is STRICTLY 4:15 pm. Children whose parents are late to pick up, will not be able to attend homework club. Please understand that staff also have their families to be home for too.

SINGING LESSONS

Ages 9-15 years Beginner-Intermediate ($15 / Half an hour)

I am a young singer studying Classical Vocal Performance at UWA, and I am looking to teach students the fundamentals of singing based on classical technique. Students will work on proper breathing techniques and breath control, posture, warm ups, vowel shaping, tone and colour, as well as stage presence and how to handle performance nerves (among other things). We will be working through a variety of different repertoire, with some being the student’s own choices.

Students will also learn and practice scales and exercises, and may also work with me on Music Theory up to AMEB Grade 4 or equivalent.

To register your interest or for more information:

Emily Schinkel
Mb: 0435 123 678 | Email: em.schin97@gmail.com
Junior Christian Endeavor (JCE) has COMMENCED this term. JCE is a children’s ministry run by the Girrawheen Baptist Church and is for children aged Kindy to year 6 who come together to meet other friends and learn more about Jesus in a fun and loving environment. We meet every Friday night during school terms and to date we have about 200 or more students from different schools attending. For any enquiries, please contact Laura Cruz (Kindy Kangaroo Teacher)

**JCE RUNS EVERY FRIDAY from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.**

Come along and invite your friends!

We have had many children being dropped off very early and picked up late at 7:30 pm or later. Parents, can you please be mindful of this as there is minimal supervision during these times and it is for **YOUR CHILD’S SAFETY** that they are **dropped off after 5:15 pm and picked up at 7:00 pm.** Thank you to those parents who are always on time to drop and pick up their children!!

Masters Games is an annual event being held on the last Saturday in the October school holidays each year. This year it will be held on **Saturday 10th October.** Churches are able to enter teams into over 30 different sport options over the day that are split up into 3 sessions, there is certainly something for everyone. Participants can choose to be as active or passive as they like with options of netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton through to lawn bowls, scrabble, bocce and even Uno.

Anyone interested in coming along see **Brendon Pirie**, or head to [www.getintoit.com.au](http://www.getintoit.com.au) and follow the links to register for Girrawheen Baptist.

**Registrations close on Sunday the 13th September**
COMMUNITY NEWS...

Are now taking enrolments for after school care!
Bus Service from the school—Open until 6:30 pm Monday to Friday
Qualified staff to assist with homework & engage the children in a wide range of indoor & outdoor activities.
CCB Approved—cost from approximately $12.82 per day!
LIMITED PLACES! BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL
FAMILY PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER

Capture the loving memory of family with this fundraising opportunity.
10% goes to our school
Your family will receive a professional family portrait package you can treasure forever for only $50...
Saturday morning or any afternoon to suit busy families.
Complete the form below with your details and leave it with your payment at the OFFICE BY FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST 2015

MIRIAN PHOTOGRAPHER
A.B. N. 83845610833
From 7 September to 12 September (Saturday)

NAME: __________________________________________ How Many Family Members: ___________

CONTACT No. __________________________________________

Preferred day of the week for the photo to be taken:
☐ Saturday Morning ☐ Any Afternoon

Page 14
The discussion about same-sex marriage has gained intensity in recent weeks. Ireland passed a referendum in favour of it; the US Supreme Court ruled that state prohibitions of same-sex marriage were unconstitutional; and here in Australia, the drum-beat in favour of “marriage equality” grows ever louder and parliament looks likely to consider a bill on the question in this current sitting. It is a good time for Christians to pause and consider what their attitudes should be.

Some Christians have suggested that, while the Bible makes clear that homosexual sex goes against God’s design, we should not take a stance on the question of whether a secular state should institute gay marriage. In the first place, the claim is sometimes made that, since sex is a matter of “personal morality” (i.e., it only affects those engaged in it), it is not the place of Christians to seek to legislate biblical standards. Instead, we should seek to live our lives according to what we understand God’s will to be, and leave the world to its own devices (“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?” 1 Cor 5:12). Second, some have argued that taking a stance on gay marriage not only distracts Christians from our main job of preaching the gospel, it also undermines our effectiveness in doing so by associating us with a position viewed by many as mean-spirited and backwards. If we want to have a hearing in the broader culture, we should be known for our love and good works, not for opposing something that many now consider to be a fundamental right.

Both of these arguments carry weight, and they should give us pause. Some Christians have been overly concerned with seeking to protect moral standards by political means, rather than focusing on the gospel and on godly living. It is also true, sadly, that some of these Christians have not always presented the most winsome picture of Christianity and have made the work of witnessing to Christ more difficult. Nonetheless, it would be a tragic mistake for Christians to walk off the playing field when it comes to same-sex marriage.

In the first place, to conceive of marriage as merely a matter of “personal morality” is to hold too narrow a view of its significance. There is a reason why in most cultures weddings are community events and vows are exchanged in the presence of family and friends: marriage is viewed as a public good. If we, as Christians, believe that marriage is something which was made by God at creation (Gen 2), and that it is organised around a core binary male-female reality, then for society to re-make it as something else will inevitably bring harm. Whenever human beings attempt to engineer society in ways that defy God’s good design, it brings harm – we only thrive when we follow the grain of the universe. This means that even if we could not identify particular “victims” of same-sex marriage, we know that real, concrete damage must come from its adoption. But, in the second place, there will in fact be specific and identifiable victims of gay marriage. Leaving aside the gay couples themselves – for whom a synthetic simulacrum of marriage will bring no blessing, however fervently desired – it is the children in such relationships who will pay the highest price. For society to say that same-sex marriage is the moral and legal equivalent of the union of a man and woman is for it to say that children gain no advantage from being with their natural parents. It is to say that gay “parents” who produced a child through surrogacy or (some day likely) cloning are in every way interchangeable with a man and woman who conceived through natural means. It is to tear asunder the most natural and fundamental bond in all of human society, that of a mother and father and their child. While there have always been children without one or both parents, previously society has invariably seen this as a deprivation; it would now be institutionalised as a positive good, leaving children the victims. It follows that Christians cannot fail to care whether or not society adopts same-sex marriage. We care because we love our neighbours and desire what is best for them. We care because we love children and cannot abandon the most vulnerable among us, even if that abandonment is cloaked under the banner of “equality”. And this is the answer to the second argument given for Christians not engaging on this issue: caring about gay marriage is part of doing good to those around us and seeking the best for our society. P.T.O.
MARRIAGE: LET’S NOT WAVE A WHITE FLAG — CONT.

OPINION | David Sandifer | Eternity Newspaper
Thursday 13 August 2015

It is easy to see that caring for our gay friends and neighbours – building friendships, hearing their stories, sharing our lives with them – is part of our calling to love our neighbour. But, equally, so is caring about same-sex marriage. Of course, it is possible to care too much about this or any social issue, at the expense of proclaiming the good news of forgiveness of sins and new life in Jesus Christ. But if as Christians we believe we are called to care about any social issues – refugees, global poverty, domestic violence – then we must care about this one as well. Let us be done once and for all with the false dichotomy between “social justice” issues and “moral” ones. Admittedly, it is a difficult question to engage with others in today’s cultural climate. We are fools if we think that we can base our argument on Christian theological assumptions, and worse than fools if we seek to appeal to a “traditional morality” which has lost all resonance. We know that our moral argument seems immoral to many. We know that even with our best efforts to be gracious and measured, some – perhaps even our own friends and family – may take offence. Yet it remains that if “the law of God is written on their hearts” (Rom 2:15) then we still have access to a common language to appeal to. If in this case our work seems more arduous and dotted with myriad pitfalls, is that not a reason to try harder and pray for more grace rather than to give up? Christians should care about same-sex marriage not primarily because we are keen to protect our rights of conscience but because we care about Australian society as a whole. We do not engage the question as a special interest group clamouring for its rights but as Australians who want what is best for all Australians. What caring looks like will be different for different ones of us. Some of us may be called simply to pray. Others, to speak out and seek to sway minds, as graciously and winsomely as possible. Others still, to social or political action. But if we care for the people in the society God has called us to live in – if we love them as Christ calls us to love them – then we will care about same-sex marriage.

The Rev. Dr David Sandifer recently completed a PhD in history from Cambridge University. He is the NSW and ACT Director for FamilyVoice Australia. See more at: http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/marriage-lets-not-wave-a-white-flag

TALKING TO YOUR GAY FRIENDS

You may not want to talk to your gay friends about same-sex marriage – it’s awkward, and probably not the best place to start in your witness to Christ. However, there’s a good chance the subject will come up. How should you handle it?

1 **Listen:** spend more time hearing than talking. This is always a good strategy, but particularly with such a charged topic. Many gay people have personal stories which include a lot of pain. Most people can accept disagreement, even on a subject they feel passionately about, if they feel they’ve genuinely been listened to.

2 **Don’t apologise:** it’s tempting to feel as though the Christian view of sex is an embarrassment, a part of the “Christian package” that we wish we could leave out. But it’s part of the good news: God’s good design in marriage is a blessing both for individuals and society.

3 **Point to Jesus:** ultimately we want to witness to the truth about Jesus more than the truth about marriage. Bring the conversation around to the brokenness which we all share, including in the area of our sexuality, and how you have found that the only way to be put back together is through Christ. And, above all, pray. What we need most is wisdom from above (James 3:17) if we are to handle these conversations in ways that are loving, grace-filled and honouring to our Lord Jesus.