

Discussion Questions for Small Groups and Families:

- 1) How did you feel as we approached the topic of homosexuality? What experiences, baggage, relationships, questions and struggles to you bring to this discussion?
- 2) What bothered you about Bill's sermon? What challenged you? What did you disagree with? What are you struggling with?
- 3) Why do you think this issue is so generationally divided? If possible, find someone from a different generation and share how your values, beliefs, and approach to this topic have been shaped through your experience.
- 4) Do you struggle to know how to relate to the people in your life who have embraced an alternative lifestyle? How so? Talk about the idea of "divided loyalties" that Pastor Bill mentioned in his sermon.
- 5) We've heard it said "hate the sin but love the sinner." How does that play out in our relationships with those who identify so strongly with what we would call their sin?
- 6) Pastor Bill talked about a man named Henri Nouwen—a homosexual *against his will* who remained celibate, but who struggled deeply with loneliness, longing and fear his entire life. Spend some time empathizing with his situation. Why do you think he never felt safe to be open about his orientation? Do you think your family or our church embodies enough grace to embolden some like Henri to share his secret? Why or why not? If not—what needs to change? What role could you play in that change?
- 7) Do you have a favorite sin that you like to crack down on harder than others? Why is that? How does that judgmentalism impact your relationships with others, and your Christian witness? How would Jesus respond to people who were living in that particular sin? What can you do to more accurately reflect Jesus with this population?

For Further Reading:

- *unChristian: what a new generation really thinks about Christianity and why it matters* (Kinnaman and Lyons)
- *Soul Survivor: how my faith survived the church* (Philip Yancey). Chapter 13 tells Henri Nouwen's story.