

# YOUTH SESSION

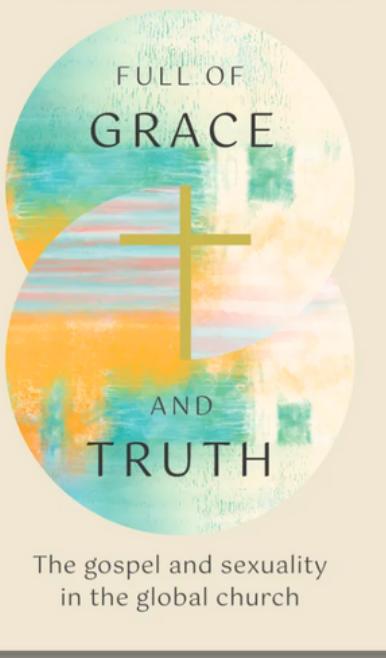
**Help young people handle issues  
of faith and sexuality with grace  
and truth.**

# Use this session to encourage truthful and gracious attitudes towards sexuality.

**Vaughan Roberts** is openly resolved to submit his own sexuality to the Lordship of Christ. He studied law at Cambridge University before a brief spell in South Africa involved in student ministry. He is Rector of St Ebbe's Church, Oxford. He has written a number of books, including *God's Big Picture*, *Battles Christians Face* and *True Friendship*.



VAUGHAN ROBERTS



*Full of Grace and Truth* reproduces Vaughan's 2024 address on "Identity and Sexuality" to Christian leaders from 202 countries at the Fourth Lausanne Congress. Together with reflections born from study of God's Word and conversations with many, it **provides a rich biblical vision of how Christians can engage compassionately and faithfully** on issues of sexuality with those inside and outside the church.

# Outline

50 mins

## Prep

10 mins

Print out the discussion questions and scenario cards.

Cut out the cards. Get a screen everyone can see and load up the Youtube clip.

## Icebreaker

5 mins

Icebreaker question

## Watch

25 mins

Vaughan's encouragement for young people and his address at the Lausanne conference.

Chat through the questions

## Discuss

20 mins

Discuss the true scenarios

### EXTRA IDEA:

Offer the young people an **anonymous Google form** so they can share or ask more private questions (while encouraging them to share with you personally).

# Icebreaker

## 5 mins

**Chat to the friend next to you**

**Your friend, a daughter of one of the leaders of your church, tells you that she experiences same-sex attraction.**

How might she feel on an average Sunday?

How might you respond to her?

If she was to tell people at church, what do you think the response would be - at the time and afterwards?

“Some are predominantly or entirely attracted to the same sex...Such people are not just out there in the world...They are in the room whenever we speak on these topics. **Does our content and tone reflect that reality?** Many have felt that they dare not speak about their experience for fear that they would be looked down on or even driven away. **This has too often resulted in the terrible isolation of loneliness and shame,** which only add to the burdens they already feel and make it more likely they will fall into sinful patterns of thinking and action.”

- Vaughan Roberts, Lausanne  
Congress 2024

# Watch

5 mins

Vaughan's encouragement for young people



# Watch

15 mins

Restoring Biblical Sexuality - Vaughan  
Roberts | Fourth Lausanne Congress



## Chat through these questions:

1. How is God's design for sex and marriage **good news?** (From 2:03)
2. Is it right to recognise a **difference** between desire/inclination and action? (From 5:54)
3. How do you think Christians are **getting it wrong** in our attitudes and actions towards others? How might we change? (From 5:54)
4. Jesus was the perfect example of grace (loving others) and truth (sticking to Scripture). How does the **gospel** - Jesus forgiving us and rescuing us from sin - change our perspective on issues of sexuality? (From 9:49)

# Discuss

15 mins

**Split into groups.**

**Cut out and distribute the true stories.**

**Consider:**

1. What would need to change about the church culture for these people to get the right help?
2. How can they find refuge in the gospel - what about the gospel would help them feel and act better?



## PHOEBE *"I feel so lonely"*

Phoebe goes to church every week with her parents. She has feelings of same-sex attraction that she has never told anyone. **The only time her church culture mentions sexuality is to strongly denounce it** as a sin of the godless, so she doesn't believe a true Christian could experience a struggle in this area. This makes her doubt her own faith and causes distress and loneliness as she desperately wants to live a godly life.

## JOSEPH *Everyone else seems so godly...*

Joseph has been looking at pornography for a few years. He knows it's wrong and has tried to stop, but never managed for long. Shame has held him back from talking to anyone.

**Everyone else seems so godly that he can't imagine any of them understanding**, so he keeps quiet. It's only after his mum sees some images on his phone that he ends up speaking to someone at church. By that time his sin has become so deeply entrenched that it is very hard to address.

# JETHRO *The shame became unbearable...*

Jethro has never wanted to tell anyone about his struggles with sexuality, but the sense of shame and guilt became unbearable, so he blurted something out to his youth leader. Days later, the senior pastor called Jethro to a meeting and told him that if he truly trusted in the Lord, he would be delivered. The pastor then prayed over him, claiming God's power to release him from the oppression of demons. That was it. **There was no attempt to listen to him and understand his experience; no word of encouragement; no follow up whatsoever.** The conversation was never mentioned again. Jethro now feels more desperate than before, not least because he's experienced no change to his desires.

## NAOMI

*They are never taught...*

New Christian Naomi hesitantly asks a family friend about sexuality. When the friend says she believes the Bible teaches that the place for sex is within the marriage of a man and a woman, Naomi says, almost under her breath as if she's admitting a dangerous secret, "I think that too." She says she is fairly sure her pastors have the same understanding, but **she's not certain, as they are never taught on these issues.** "They don't want to put anyone off from coming to Christ, or cause division in the church, so they keep quiet," she says. The result is that **the members of the church, who are mostly young, are just confused.**

What would it practically look like for a church to have the ideal, Jesus-like approach to sexuality?

How can you create a culture of truth and grace in your church?



**Archbishop Laurent Mbanda,  
Anglican Church of Rwanda**



**Sarah Breuel, Founder of  
Revive Europe**

"I believe Vaughan Roberts is the best voice on this crucial topic. He speaks to real people from life experience, bringing of the truth of Scripture in an incredibly compassionate way."



**Kanishka Raffel,  
Archbishop of Sydney**

"...this book will be of great comfort and practical help to those beguiled or betrayed by the lies of the sexual revolution, and those who walk alongside them as disciples of Christ."

"Here is a much-needed encouragement for orthodox Christians across the world to think together about what it means to be faithful to Christ in the face of the sexual revolution."



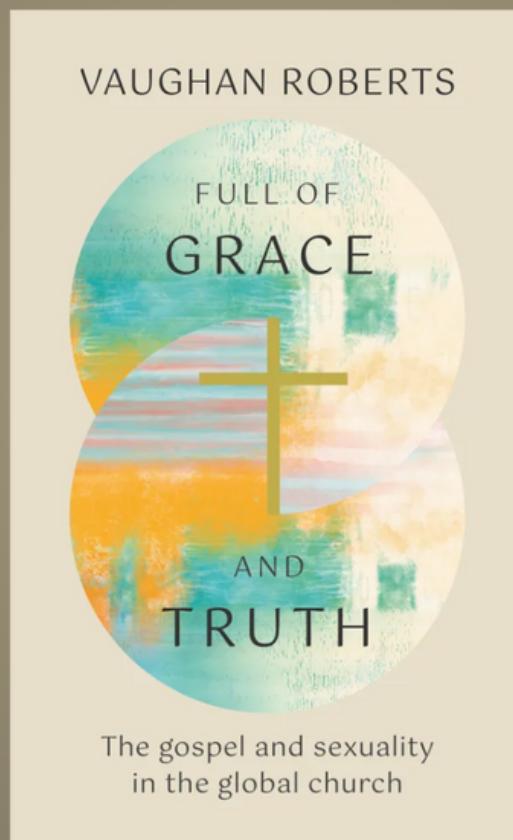
**Patricia Weerakoon, Author,  
The Gender Revolution**

"This book is a call to all Christians, especially youth, to live a life in keeping with God's good design for sex and gender even when it clashes with the convictions of our sexualised permissive culture."



**Chris Wright, Langham  
Partnership**

"Vaughan Roberts speaks not only with theological conviction of the authority of Scripture in this matter, but also with authentic credibility as one who is openly resolved to submit his own sexuality to the Lordship of Christ"



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+  
Discussion  
questions

# Youth titles



[Have a look](#)