

Safe Spaces Presentation

a Sanctuary Collective resource

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Safe Space Presentation

Your community will learn more about safe spaces and why they are necessary for LGBTQ people.

Materials Needed:

- Chart paper
- People to tell their personal stories about faith and LGBTQ identities

Outline:

- 1) Introduction
 - a. Introduce presentation members
 - b. Brainstorm on chart paper:
 - i. What are some places you feel safe?
 - ii. Why does that place feel safe for you?
- 2) Christ creating safe spaces
 - a. Reacting to Martha's anger at Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
 - b. Reacting to his followers' anger at the woman who washed his feet (John 12:1-8)
 - c. Part of Christ's mission was that people could know that nothing can remove them from his protection (Romans 8:28-29)
- 3) Why is a safe space necessary for LGBTQ people?
 - a. History of being excluded from Christian community
 - b. Share personal story/stories of how exclusion from Christian community can affect LGBTQ people
 - c. Discuss the policies/atmosphere of your personal community toward LGBTQ people
 - i. Are there policies in writing? Social consequences of being openly LGBTQ?
 - ii. How does it affect the climate in your community?
 - iii. What are consequences of being an ally?
- 4) What does a safe space look like for LGBTQ people and allies?

- a. A place for dialogue and understanding without fear of expulsion, rejection, or retribution
- b. a place of all-encompassing safety for all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinguishing characteristic
- c. A safe space invites all to the table to learn and grow from our diversity without fear but rather with open hearts and minds
- d. A safe space is NOT
 - i. A place to ignore the moral standards of the community. A safe space simply ensures that LGBTQ members are held to EQUAL standards in the community
 - ii. "Hate the sin, love the sinner"
 - iii. Forcing individuals into "reparative therapy"
 - iv. Trying to "convert" LGBT individuals by forming relationships and then insisting they change

5) How can we create a safe space in our community?

- a. Be open to discussion about sexuality and gender- be willing to examine ideas even if they are not what you yourself believe
- b. Be a "safe person"- Be someone your fellow students know is trustworthy and understanding about issues of gender and sexuality. "Coming out" to someone is a really big deal and it's important to be understanding even if you have personal objections- make sure that the person who is telling you knows they will not be "turned in" for confiding in you
- c. Be proactive- ask the administration to hold forums, have discussions, provide both sides, examine their policy (we understand that in some communities this may be more dangerous and have more negative consequences than at others- this shows that safety is important for you as an ally too- discrimination hurts everyone!)
- d. Start a QSA (queer-straight alliance) - create a physical space and meeting time where community members who are gender variant or sexual minorities and their allies can meet and know they have a safe space where they are supported and loved (includes ideas for where to meet, how to start, etc.)