



Help!! My Child Says He is Gay.

Every counselor can shepherd a parent of someone with SSA by using these two tools.

Tool #1 – Comfort

II Corinthians 1:3-5

Joy shared is multiplied; Pain shared is diminished.

- Research if the parents have Biblical Community
- Remind them of God's sovereignty.
- Give hope



Tool #2 – Counsel

- Grasp truth

- Give love

Conclusion

Homework Ideas

- Repent of any sinful initial response.
- Review verses on homosexuality
- Maximize their time at church during this season
- Spent extra time in the scriptures and prayer
- Make a goal to daily do one deed of love for their child to show them God's love.

Resources

- **HEARTBROKEN** – Shirley Elliott
- **SAME SEX MARRIAGE** – Sean McDowell and John Stonestreet
- **LOVE INTO LIGHT** – Peter Hubbard
- **OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY** – Christopher Yuan and Angela Yuan
- **TRUSTING GOD** – Jerry Bridges



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Passages Commonly Taken out of Context in Counseling
Hannah Carter

I. Introduction

As believers we are taught to live life according to God's Word and his promises. In counseling or in our own walk with the Lord, we turn to Scripture because we want something. It is important to understand our motives and to properly interpret Scripture in order to apply it to our lives.

II. How we are often irresponsible when ministering with Scripture:

1. We overlook or misunderstand the biblical genre.
2. We want quick relief or instruction, so we zero in on a verse/passage that fits our desire and move on without considering the bigger picture and context of the passage.
3. We look up a word in a concordance (e.g., fear/hope), and direct someone to that verse/passage before we understand the context.
4. We add meaning to a verse to appease our desire/want.
5. We repeat what we hear from others and do not study the Scripture ourselves.

III. How to be more responsible when ministering with Scripture:

General guidelines:

1. Determine the genre (e.g., poetry, historical narrative, wisdom literature, letter/epistle).



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2. Look at the literary context of the verse in the paragraph, passage, chapter, book and other books the author has written.
3. Ask questions: Is this a principle or a promise? To whom is this promise given (e.g., all people, Israel, or an individual)? Is there an application for me or my counselee? Be careful to not give counselee false promises (promises not meant for him/her) because you give false hope.
4. Keep in mind the whole counsel of God and how a passage ties in with the major themes of Scripture, i.e., use Scripture to interpret Scripture.
5. Be sure the counselee understands how to rightly find God's hope and promises in Scripture.
6. Help the counselee apply Scripture in order to love God and others more and **to** know and obey Jesus Christ.

IV. Examples of common passages used wrongly

1. Your counselee longs for desires fulfilled (marriage, children, better job etc.)
You turn to: Psalm 37:4 – “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
 - a. As you minister this verse to your counselee, how might s/he interpret and apply it to his/her life?
 - b. When read in context, what differences do you notice? Which guidelines (see III) were missed in giving this verse to the counselee?



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c. What are other verses or passages that speak more accurately to the counselee's need? How?

2. Your counselee needs encouragement and hope that God is in control and is his/her security.

You turn to: Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

a. As you minister this verse to your counselee, how might s/he interpret and apply it to his/her life?

b. When read in context, what differences do you notice? Which guidelines (see III) were missed in giving this verse to the counselee?

c. What are other verses or passages that speak more accurately to the counselee's need? How?

3. Your counselee is discouraged because s/he gave in to temptation despite clinging to these verses:

Phil 4:13&19 – “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

a. As you minister this verse to your counselee, how might s/he interpret and apply it to his/her life?



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b. When read in context, what differences do you notice? Which guidelines (see III) were missed in giving this verse to the counselee?

c. What are other verses or passages that speak more accurately to the counselee's need? How?

V. Conclusion:

Recommended Resources:

- Bargerhuff, Eric J., *The Most Misused Verses in the Bible*
- Carson, D.A., *Exegetical Fallacies*
- Doriani, Daniel, *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*
- Grudem, Collins, and Schreiner, *Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible: A Guide to Reading the Bible Well*
- Stein, Robert, *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible*