

## Navigating through Difficult Issues

How to navigate through complex conversation topics such as drugs, sex, gender identity issues, same-sex attraction, and pornography during mentoring?

- These conversations are complicated. **It is important to give an answer that is consistent with what is written in Scripture**, and *not* how the world perceives it—sometimes, your response may be counter-cultural and not widely accepted.
- If you are uncertain how to present a biblically sound response to the mentee, **simply thank the mentee for sharing their thoughts** and questions with you, and **admit that you do not have an answer, but will do some research** and let them know the next time you meet.
- **It is okay not to have all the answers.** It is better to be silent than to give a response that you will later regret.



*“Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.”—Proverbs 17:28*

What if **YOUR MENTEE** is struggling with drugs, fornication, gender identity issues, same-sex attraction, and pornography?

- Love him/her, despite what the issue is, love him/her (1 Peter 4:8).
- The mentee may not be a follower of Jesus, so continue to share Christ with him/her as the main goal in the first step to addressing the issue he/she is struggling with.
  - As the mentee comes to know God, recognize the struggle the mentee has and share biblical passages that speaks to his/her issue. Help him/her understand that there is forgiveness, healing, and salvation for their problem in Jesus Christ.
- If the mentee is engaging in illegal activity, inform the Director immediately.

What if **YOU** are struggling with drugs, fornication, gender identity issues, same-sex attraction, and pornography?



- Take some time to examine your heart before the Lord and confess any sins to Him (1 John 1:9)
- Share about this with your mentor coach and Director, seek wisdom and guidance from them on how to navigate through this issue (James 5:16; Proverbs 19:20)
- Prayerfully consider whether to take a break from serving in ministry to work through your struggle, with input from your mentor coach and Director.