

# ALL THINGS NEW A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING

—SECOND EDITION—

*Overcoming the Effects of a False LGBTQ Identity*

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FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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2 Cor. 5:17

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Overcoming the Effects of a False LGBTQ Identity  
Facilitator's Guide

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# INTRODUCTION

**ALL THINGS NEW: A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING** is a Bible Study and Discipleship Ministry for people who are conflicted about their own lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) identity. It is designed to be facilitated by lay leaders and assisted by volunteer prayer/Accountability Partners. The purpose of the All Things New Ministry is to aid in the spiritual healing and growth of people who are in bondage to false identities, and enable them to understand their true identity as a child of God. Participants in the ministry will experience true love and healing from the Lover of their soul, Jesus Christ.

It is imperative that the ministry leaders create a safe environment for healing; train participants in the Ministry to examine their lives in light of biblical truth; and cultivate personal intimacy with Jesus Christ that leads to true Discipleship. It is important that the ministry leader is able to be transparent about their own struggles with sin, to be honest about their relationship with God, and not pretend to be an expert in spirituality. It is not necessary to expose all of the details, but by being transparent about our struggles with sin, we open up the dialogue and create a safe environment for healing.

Each participant in the discipleship ministry should be paired with an Accountability Partner who serves as a mentor/Christian friend to pray for and support the participant as he/she works through the weekly lessons. The Accountability Partners are not counselors or therapists; they are mature Christians who have a heart for serving and supporting others who desire to live a holy life.

The Facilitators and Accountability Partners agree to maintain the confidentiality of all participants in the ministry to provide a safe environment for people to openly discuss their feelings and struggles with sin. All information shared in the group must be kept confidential with limited exceptions, for example, if you believe a participant is at risk for suicide or if you believe someone intends to harm another person.

It is important to be aware that some people who participate in this ministry may need professional counseling services in addition to the weekly Bible study as areas of pain are exposed in their lives. Be prepared to provide information about how to connect them with professional counselors through your church or in the community.

## GROUP SIZE

For an effective group study and an environment most conducive to healing in this area, it is best if each group remains small (ideally, no more than 4-6 participants for each Facilitator).

## SCHEDULING

The course consists of an introductory session and 24 lessons. It generally takes 6–7 months to complete the entire course allowing for breaks between major units of study. The in-class meetings are designed for a 1.5–2-hour time block.

A typical weekly Bible Study class consists of:

- 5 minutes – Scripture Memory Quiz/Demonstration
- 10 minutes – Praise and Worship followed by Prayer (*assign a participant to serve as Worship/Prayer Leader for each class*)
- 30 minutes – Break Down the Memory Verse and Homework Discussion
- 40 - 70 minutes – Weekly Lesson
- 5 minutes – Closing Prayer

Yearly lesson plan outline with suggested ministry breaks:

Week #	Lesson #	Lesson Title
1	N/A	Ministry Orientation
2	1	The Word is Life
3	2	The Enemy's Lies v. God's Truth
4	3	Freedom in Truth
5	4	Hearing God's Voice
6	5	Prayer – Communicating with God
7	6	Fall of Man – Root Causes of a False LGBTQ Identity
8	7	Forgiveness – Part I  <i>Hand Out Evaluation Forms (see FORMS Section of this Facilitator's Guide)</i>
9	8	What the Bible Says About Homosexuality  <i>Collect Completed Evaluation Forms</i>
10	9	Gay Theology
11	10	Sexual Integrity
12	11	Spiritual Warfare
13-14	<i>SUGGESTED MINISTRY BREAK – 2-week break with Reading Assignment: All Things New: A Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love by Debora Barr</i>	
15	12	The Heart
16	13	Our Authority in Christ to Route Demons
17	14	Forgiveness – Part II
18	15	Removing Hindrances to Effective Prayer
19	16	Holy Spirit's Power for Inner Healing and Sanctification  <i>Hand Out Evaluation Forms (see FORMS Section of this Facilitator's Guide)</i>
20	17	Listening and Inner Healing Prayer  <i>Collect Completed Evaluation Forms</i>

21-22	<i>SUGGESTED MINISTRY BREAK – 2-week break with Reading Assignment: All Things New: A Former Lesbian’s Lifelong Search for Love by Debora Barr</i>	
23	18	The Power of Sharing Your Testimony and Glorifying God
24	19	Tailoring Your Message for the Listener
25	20	Spiritual Gifts and Calling
26	21	Witnessing – the Great Commission
27	22	Your Life’s Purpose
28	23	Testimony Development and Sharing
29	24	Personal Plan to Continue Daily Devotional
		<i>Hand Out Evaluation Forms (see FORMS Section of this Facilitator’s Guide)</i>
30	Final Fellowship	Final Course Fellowship <i>Collect Completed Evaluation Forms</i>

## OTHER BOOKS AND VIDEO/AUDIO RESOURCES SUGGESTED FOR COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE:

LESSON #17 - *A Guide for Listening and Inner-Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places* by Rusty Rustenbach (NavPress 2011) ISBN: 978-1-61747-086-8 . It is helpful that facilitators have read this book prior to facilitating lesson #17.

This book is helpful for participants and leaders to see first-hand the process that God took Debora through as she interacted with God and other people during her healing journey - *All Things New: a Former Lesbian’s Lifelong Search for Love* by Debora Barr (True Potential Publishing 2012) ISBN: 978-1-935769-32-3.

## ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR FACILITATION OF THIS COURSE:

Visit Debora’s website for current links to recommended resources: [www.DBarrMinistries.org](http://www.DBarrMinistries.org)

LESSON #17 - *A Guide for Listening and Inner-Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places* by Rusty Rustenbach (NavPress 2011) ISBN: 978-1-61747-086-8 . It is helpful that facilitators have read this book prior to facilitating lesson #17.

Visit Debora’s website for links to this book and additional resources from Rusty Rustenbach: [www.DBarrMinistries.org](http://www.DBarrMinistries.org)

## LESSON #21 – BEMA Judgment Seat of Christ Drama by Pete Briscoe

A powerful story that will demonstrate the practical application and eternal results of the lesson that was taught this week is a drama by Pastor Pete Briscoe (Bent Tree Bible Church in Texas) where he walks us through a presentation of what worship at the BEMA judgment seat will be like when we see Christ face-to-face.

Visit Debora’s website for the link to this resource: [www.DBarrMinistries.org](http://www.DBarrMinistries.org)

## WEEKLY HOMEWORK

Each in-class lesson is preceded by a week of homework that needs to be completed by each participant (and ministry leader) prior to meeting as a group. Each homework assignment consists of five days' worth of individual Bible study plus a Scripture that relates to the week's lesson and is to be memorized by each person. Scripture memory is demonstrated by either asking participants to recite Scripture from memory, or write it out and turn it in at the beginning of the class.

## ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS

The Accountability Partner serves as a Christian mentor/friend to a person who is completing this Discipleship Ministry program. Their role is to encourage and provide unconditional love and a listening ear to a person who is trying to live a life pleasing to God and who has experienced pain and brokenness leading to a false LGBTQ identity. No prior exposure to or experience with LGBTQ identity is needed, just a heart for hurting people and an ability to listen and continually point a person to Jesus for healing. They should also pray regularly for the person they are paired with.

Each person that is interested in serving in this ministry should be screened by the ministry leaders prior to pairing them with a participant. There is a sample Accountability Partner Application in the FORMS section at the end of this Facilitator's Guide that you can use for this purpose. It is imperative that each potential applicant has the right motives and a true heart for serving in this capacity that has been demonstrated by their participation and service in other areas of ministry. It would be quite harmful to have a person serving as an Accountability Partner who is judgmental and condescending toward a person who struggles with their sexuality, or who has some negative ulterior motive for wanting to serve in this capacity. All efforts must be made by the ministry leaders to create a safe environment for each of the participants in the ministry.

It is also important to provide basic training to people serving as Accountability Partners so they understand some of the root causes of a false LGBTQ identity and how best to minister to a person who struggles in this area. This Facilitator's Guide contains a lesson plan for basic training for Accountability Partners as well as some suggested books and websites with more information to help them better understand LGBTQ identity. It is also important to have the Accountability Partners meet together as a group with the Facilitator periodically to share best practices/concerns with the other Accountability Partners and to allow them to ask any questions they may have about supporting their assigned participant. I also encourage Accountability Partners to participate in the weekly Participant Bible Study sessions as much as they are able so they can get to know the person they are supporting and understand the process they are going through during the course of this study.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Additional Resources for Facilitators and Accountability Partners to read to learn more about supporting persons who are conflicted about their identity as LGBTQ:**

*All Things New: a Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love* by Debora Barr (True Potential Publishing 2012)

*When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Loved One Says They're Gay* by Joe Dallas (Harvest House Publishers 2004)

*Understanding Gender Confusion: A Faith Based Perspective* by Denise Shick (Help4Families Press 2014).

Visit Debora's website for links to current information and resources: [www.DBarrMinistries.org](http://www.DBarrMinistries.org)



## SAMPLE FORMS

Sample Forms are provided in the back of this Facilitator's Guide for the administration and evaluation of this ministry for your Church.

## HOW TO USE THIS FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Each lesson plan in this Facilitator's Guide directly corresponds with the weekly homework assignments in the Participant's Workbook. For example, Lesson #1 homework is to be completed by the participants prior to coming together as a class for discussion of Lesson #1.

The basic format for each lesson plan is as follows:

1. Reproduction of the introductory material for each homework assignment, including the weekly Scripture memory verse
2. Breakdown of the underlined key terms/concepts that make up the memory verse along with some questions to encourage discussion about the Scripture verse
3. Questions to encourage discussion about the homework
4. In-class exercises to include small group activities, and fill in the blank exercises
5. New lesson material that will lead into the next week's homework

For best results, the Group Facilitator should complete the homework and memorize the Scripture along with the participants before coming together to lead the group discussion. The Facilitator also needs to review and become familiar with the weekly Lesson Plan she/he will be using to facilitate the in-class discussions, as it may be necessary to modify the lesson plan to tailor the lesson to each group being served. Also, preparing ahead of time examples and testimonies from the life of the Facilitator related to the lesson will have a greater impact towards opening up discussion among the group than merely relying on the author's testimony.

As you review the Lesson Plans, you will see bulleted italicized text following many of the questions posed by the author. These are points that you should try to draw out of the class during discussion. For lessons that have an in-class exercise, the answers to the puzzles as well as the fill-in-the-blank exercises are provided in this Facilitator's Guide.

Throughout this Facilitator's Guide, you will find Scriptures to reinforce points being made in the lesson. Have a participant read the Scripture that corresponds to the point being made before revealing the answer to the fill-in-the-blank.

Use your imagination as a facilitator to make each lesson interesting and engaging for the participants. Following are some ideas that you may want to incorporate into the weekly lessons:

- Ask for Testimonies of what God has done in the lives of the participants this week
- Ask for Testimonies of what God has revealed to us through His Word this week
- Use worship videos at the beginning of class that correspond to, and reinforce the weekly lesson

- Show video clips to illustrate teaching points from the weekly lesson
- Incorporate comedy or a skit to illustrate a teaching point
- Arts and Crafts that reinforce a lesson
- Assign a person to bring in an illustration or object that reinforces the weekly lesson
- Team-building exercises in class – to learn to trust other Christians

Sample

# ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER BASIC TRAINING

Accountability Partners need no prior training or exposure to issues surrounding persons who identify as LGBTQ to serve in this ministry. They just need to be mature men and women of God who have a heart for hurting people, and a heart to help others draw close to Jesus Christ.

## RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THIS CLASS – Basic Training and Testimony Video clips

Welcome – Thank them for their interest in coming alongside men and women to help them walk in accordance with God's will for their lives.

Introduce yourself and any of the other Ministry Leaders.

Ask each potential Accountability Partner to briefly share why they want to be a part of this ministry.

To better understand some of the backgrounds and influencing factors that people who identify as LGBTQ may have experienced, it is helpful to hear testimonies of transformed lives. Visit Debora's website for links to current resources: [www.DBarrMinistries.org](http://www.DBarrMinistries.org)

## Show Basic Training Video

Dr. Julie Harren Hamilton - Homosexuality 101: <http://www.voicesofchange.net/dr-julie-harren-hamilton.html>

Men and women don't choose to have an LGBTQ identity. It develops as a result of wounding and unmet needs for love and affection

- They are seeking in other men/women the things that they need for their own development – seeking what was lost along the way
  - The problem is all LGBTQ identity men/women are missing something and they are seeking what they need in other hurting and incomplete people of the same sex.
- The feelings are real
  - Feels to them like true love
- LGBTQ identity is complicated
  - Can be non-sexual (emotional relationships)
  - Can start out as 'girlfriend' or 'boyfriend' relationship – that gets too close and can eventually turn physical

- Some men/women marry and have children while fighting their false LGBTQ identity. If the marriage does not survive, they often go into a homosexual relationship after divorce (or if don't divorce – struggle in pain)
- LGBTQ identity in itself is not a sin. Having an LGBTQ identity and never acting on it is not sin.
  - Same-sex attraction = attraction to persons of the same sex without acting on that attraction or lusting after those persons (NOT becoming entangled emotionally and physically with persons of the same sex)
  - Homosexuality = having sexual relations with a person of the same sex and self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; or lusting after a person of the same sex in the heart.
  - Homosexuality becomes sin when people act on the feelings they have or lust in their heart after people of the same sex.

If you JUDGE a man or woman because of his/her LGBTQ identity, you risk wounding them further; what they need is unconditional love.

- Requirements for Healing
  - Unconditional Love – non-judgmental; don't mention LGBTQ identity or point out Scriptures that condemn homosexuality.
  - When a man/woman decides to walk away from that life and live in accordance with God's will for their life, he/she is about to go through a very difficult season and needs loving, caring support from men and women who can surround him/her with SAFE love.
    - He/She will go through a grieving process
      - Social Structure (“family”) gone – severe loneliness can set in
      - Loss of touch and sense of being loved and accepted and cared for by someone
      - Loss of identity – Who am I? Where do I fit in?
      - Realization that he/she may have aborted or seriously delayed many of God's plans for his/her life
        - Marriage – Family – Children – Grandchildren missing
    - He/She may backslide and go backwards when it is too hard and too painful to go forward. He/she needs unconditional love and support from those cheering him/her on.
    - Drawing out and listening to his/her story over time – do not offer solutions; listen and empathize with his/her feelings
    - Sense of belonging and being accepted without a requirement to change first
    - Prayer – How do you pray for him/her?
    - Encouragement and affirmation
    - Help him/her learn to identify as a child of God
    - Family interaction is very helpful for healing, as many come from broken homes
  - Ministry is a Discipleship Program designed to work through Bible studies and discover the love and healing power of Jesus Christ to transform lives