

# When Your Child Says “I’m Gay”

Michael Scott Gembola

# A family storm?





# Big picture

The risks

The responses





# I. The risks



# Risks in the environment

- Historical expectations
- Knowing your expectations
  - What would you like to see happen?
  - What would you like a counselor to provide?

# Risks in the environment

- Historical expectations
- Knowing your expectations
- Re-setting your expectations





Shattered illusions

# Risks in the environment

- Historical expectations
- Knowing your expectations
- Re-setting your expectations
  - Shattered expectations
  - Picking up the pieces



# Risks in the environment

- Historical expectations
- Knowing your expectations
- Re-setting your expectations
- The surprising shared goal



## B. Risks in the home

# Risks in the home

- Character
- Obligations
- Conflict patterns
- Rigidity/flexibility



# Big picture

The risks

The responses

# The responses

- The aftermath for the family
  - Immediate aftermath
    - Shock
    - Loss
    - Hopelessness
    - Shame
    - Guilt
    - Fear

# The responses

- The aftermath for the family
  - Immediate aftermath
  - Is God in this storm?
  - Starting to talk



# The responses

- The aftermath for the family
  - Starting to talk
    - Blame
    - Dismissal/denial
    - Anger/disgust
    - Argument/pressure

# The responses

- The aftermath for the family
  - “The arm of the flesh” (Jer 17:5)
    - Leverage
      - Support
      - Family events
      - God?
    - Ultimatum

# The responses

- The aftermath for the family
- Can storms be prepared for?



# The responses | aftermath

- What the storm feels like
- Starting to talk
  - Common responses
  - Common scenarios
  - Common challenges
- Decisions and dilemmas

# The responses | aftermath

- What the storm feels like
- Starting to talk
- Decisions and dilemmas

# The responses | preparing

- Sexuality
- Politics
- Romance
- Singleness
- The Christian life

# Hope

