

A Friend Loveth at All Times

Making LDS Wards and Communities LGBTQ/SSA-Friendly Proverbs 17:17

ADVERSARY	BYSTANDER	ALLY	ADVOCATE
Marked by feelings of hate, disgust, fear, prejudice, and/or pity. Efforts are made to bully, shame, and/or shun LGBTQ/SSA individuals and their families.	Marked by feelings of ambivalence, tolerance and/or acceptance. No effort is made to harm or to help LGBTQ/SSA individuals and their families.	Marked by feelings of acceptance, admiration, and/or appreciation. Efforts are made to support and nurture individual LGBTQ/SSA individuals and their families.	Marked by feelings of admiration and appreciation. Efforts are made to positively influence policy and resource decisions affecting LGBTQ/SSA individuals.

Be a good friend. Show genuine interest in others; smile and let them know you care about them. Treat everyone with kindness and respect, and refrain from judging and criticizing those around you. Do not participate in any form of bullying. Make a special effort to be a friend to those who are shy or lonely, have special needs, or do not feel included.

For the Strength of Youth

Church-produced Resources

- MormonsAndGays.org

LDS-related Resources

- Affirmation: LGBT Mormons Family & Friends
- www.LDSresources.info
- North Star

Other Resources

- Family Acceptance Project
- GLSEN: Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
- Human Rights Campaign
- PFLAG: Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies United with LGBT People
- The TREVOR Project

- Imagine the challenges that being a LGBTQ/SSA individual associated with the Church brings.
- Do not assume that there are no LGBTQ/SSA members and/or allies in your ward.
- Ask questions about LGBTQ/SSA individuals' lives including their preferred identifiers and pronouns.
- Out yourself as an ally.
- Keep lessons, talks, and discussions focused on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Remember that, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" *Romans 3:23*
- Seek to liken scriptures and lessons to yourself, and only yourself.
- Avoid language that creates an us/them divide.
- Do not characterize LGBTQ/SSA individuals as seeking to destroy families, communities, and America.
- Do not use words and expressions that hurt.
- Speak up and step in when hurtful words and expressions are used.
- Understand that LGBTQ/SSA individuals are at higher risk of substance abuse, self-harming behaviors, and suicide due to feeling rejected by others.
- Seek to create inclusive and safe spaces.
- Sit next to, talk with, and listen to LGBTQ/SSA individuals and their families.
- Reflect on the part you play in realizing that "we, being many, are one body in Christ" *Romans 12:5*