Session 01.03 - Engaging with Conversations about Gender Identity

Lab: Engaging with Conversations about Gender Identity
Date: 8 October 2026
Room: Poolside downstairs
Facilitator: Jo Haaijer with OneHope
Approximate number of participants:7

1. Purpose of today's session

Gender and identity have become part of everyday conversations for many children and young people. Christian families may know what they believe—but what happens when these questions suddenly become personal? When they enter our homes, friendships and churches?

How do we move beyond simply having the right answers and learn to engage in conversations that really matter?

2. Starting point

Christian families may know what they believe—but what happens when these questions suddenly become personal? When they enter our homes, friendships and churches?

How do we move beyond simply having the right answers and learn to engage in conversations that really matter?

3. Challenges identified

- Parents are caught off guard when it enters their home
- When we don't ask questions, we may jump to quick assumptions and put labels that aren't helpful.
- There isn't always safe places for the parents of kids with gender identity issues to process

4. Ideas and possible solutions

- A life surrendered to the Lord is the goal of discipleship - and we all have things to surrender
- We can help parents and church leaders think through their initial response before being confronted with it personally (ie. listen/ask questions, affirm your love for the person, slow down the conversation - it didn't happen in one day, so it doesn't have to be solved in one day)
- Wide door, narrow road approach - invite conversation and walk with them towards God (love and truth)