

## JACK'S CORNER

**QUESTION:** My son asked me what it means to be “gay”. He’s only 6. What do I tell him?

**ANSWER:** Ask him about the context in which he heard the word used. Chances are, the word was used in a derogatory way to put down someone (Maybe it was said about him.). At 6, you tell him that the word has two meanings: 1. To be happy and carefree. 2. Tell him that some people use the word “gay” in a **mean** way to **make fun of** someone. Tell him that he is not to use the word in order to hurt or make fun of someone.

I don’t believe at 6 he has the maturity or awareness to understand the entire cultural meaning of being gay. However, this is a wake-up call to you as parents. You must be careful about instructing your son in age-appropriate and timely ways. As he is introduced to sexuality through heart-to-heart talks with you and/or through the materials SOTHCS sends home, there will be opportunities to talk with him in age-appropriate ways about homosexuality. It would be ideal if parents could be proactive about handling evil, but sometimes the best we can do is react in a thoughtful, godly way when evil intrudes into the lives of our children. Your son will take his example from you; he will listen and watch carefully as to how you think, act and explain.

Children want an honest and understandable answer. At 6, he doesn’t yet require a complete answer. We parents need to be relentless in prayer and godly involvement with our children.

Jack Lipski, M.A.

SOTHCS Counselor

(Permission to copy granted for personal use only.)