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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

bisexual, people, man, feel, sex, group, women, meetings, life, important, bisexuality, male, question, hug, sexuality, changed, houston, talking, binet, opened

## SPEAKERS

Gigi, Michelle

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00:09

MC CR and its HIV support group of Harmer for living analysis activities for the next month. The group meets every Tuesday night at fellowship Paulette MC CR, which is located at 19 nights in Decatur Street between Montrose street Amman and Houston Avenue off Washington Avenue. The meetings began with social time at 6pm a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30pm, and meetings beginning at approximately 7pm. On February 14, the group have watched the living proof video which documents the story behind the living proof exhibited photographs. On February 21, Mr. Harry Livesay from the Thomas Street Clinic will visit with the group and update them on the many services and programs that are available at the clinic. Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection is celebrating 20 years of service this year in Houston. For more information about EFL directions or other programs of MC CR, please call the church office at 8619149.



Gigi 01:31

Right Okay, we're back. This is Gigi with finance. And we're having a panel discussion from our group about bisexual issues. I did want to clarify one thing real quickly. We're not here to attack the gay community, we're here to bring the whole queer community together. You know, it's like that, to me is what's really important. You know, we're, we have a separate identity, but we also have a common identity. And I think it's really important to distinguish that common goals and some common goals. But I want to kind of move on to another topic, a more fun topic. And this is, you know, I have a kind of a question. I want to pose the Chevy. Has your sexuality changed? As a result of identifying as bisexual? Have you found things to be a little bit easier for you? Or harder or maxed? Do you get more satisfaction? Okay, being bisexual, but let me kind of go round who wants to go first? I know this is kind of a hard question, Jim. What Jim does tell us discussion. If you want I'll go first.



02:57

Me I love talking about sex. Has Has has sex gotten what is it? I was out there listening to what

was going on in the lobby.

G Gigi 03:08

How has sexuality changed since you've identified as bisexual or has it?

♀ 03:15

Oh, well. Yeah, there's been all kinds of discoveries. You know, I mean, wow, there were many many things

♀ 03:30

well, little rubber friends and all kinds of interesting things. Yeah, they've been all kinds of discoveries that wow, I liked this. i Yeah. Basically, how I discovered I was bisexual is basically Well, my boyfriend and my ex spouse told me I was and I just kind of, oh, yeah, yeah, that fits. Sure. Okay.

G Gigi 04:05

Do you feel a sense of relief? Or sense of relief? Or just a sense of knowing yourself differently? Maybe or did it kind of come as a revelation to you or, or what happened to be specific?

♀ 04:24

I felt I felt better.

G Gigi 04:30

Do you feel more in tune with yourself?

♀ 04:35

Hmm. I think yeah, that that's a was Yeah. Yeah. I felt this kind of sense of harmony, a sense of, Oh, okay. That's, that's what's been bothering me the past X amount of months and all this kind of stuff. I mean, there was some nagging thing in the back of our mind, and I couldn't quite figure out what it was. And it wasn't until you You know, I, what I call the Great divorce and, and all that that all of a sudden this kind of this light came on, it's just boom, ah, that's what it was that brought on the depression that brought on all this and that and this. And I mean, it wasn't. Yeah, so it was a great relief. You know, I mean, you know, knowing that, maybe that's what brought it on? I don't know.

G

Gigi 05:31

Okay, let's get down to the dirt. The dirt sex life change

♀

05:36

quite quite how lot? Well,

G

Gigi 05:43

it's added it's added barring mine. So it's added

♀

05:46

men that's that's a big change going from strictly one person. The basically the first person I had sex with I married her. And then, you know, then we get divorced and all of a sudden, it's like, wow, hey, guys, look, look, you're looking really good here. And then things just came a little too easy for me, you know? And it's like, well, maybe this means something. Turns out you did and I like it. And I don't really want to go back. Actually,

♀

06:30

Marlon, I basically would have to say, I was interested in, in boys and girls. Way back. Just prior to high school, I led a real sheltered life, and I lived my life, most my sexual life through fantasy. I often questioned myself, I said, Well, why are you attracted to this coach? As well as the cheerleaders? And is there something wrong with you, because you're attracted to these male coaches, or these male athletes, I

G

Gigi 07:12

do have different jiggles.

♀

07:16

And the coach patch on the rear end and everything,

♀

07:19

right, and that was another thing I couldn't understand is why did in the locker room you had all the locker room horror stories? Why would they always conquer on their dates, all talk about let's go out and conquer all the women and and, and be men and be Butch and

 G

Gigi 07:42

harbor conquest.

 O

07:43

And why would never talk about you know, it's like, let's, let's try to explore ourselves. And they explored themselves. There was a lot of physical action going on. But no one match no real mental action. I sat back and watched quite a bit until I also had some stipulations. I was in the military. And my first my first relationship. And yes, it did play around quite a bit. I'd say variety is the spice of life, if you will. And I just I just felt attraction for whatever I needed. That was either a B, male or female company. And I felt very comfortable in both houses, so to speak. Sexually. It's always been a continuum of exploration, just just constant curiosity. No, let's let's see what how else I can please myself these days. And whom else I could please myself with.

 O

09:08

Okay, you keep bringing up sexuality as being on a continuum. Like, what do you mean by that?

 O

09:15

I believe we live our life one day at a time and with with my previous history of fantasy and that changed continuously. I was I was questioning why are changing but it's maybe not really for me to answer. Why it's changing. Constantly the the continuum of life. Individuals are bombarded with male and female personalities continuously. And they have feelings that emanate from this. You may be dating a woman and I have physical attractions for for the man down the street. But some men repress this, this urge to go out and talk to this other man. So why not feel free to flow with your feelings, rather than do the repressive act? So I feel like, what whatever personality you're in or whatever personality you feel more comfortable with at the time thing, go with the flow, be real spontaneous in your reactions.

 O

10:42

Do you think that they're conscious, necessarily that they are repressing feelings?

 G

Gigi 10:51

Well, I'd like for y'all to talk about yourself love ourselves. So the lying man's

 O

10:57

Inquiring minds want to know. Okay, what?

 G

Gigi 11:03

Sex? Tell me about sex. But let's hear from labor. How's your sex life changed?

 O

11:13

Well, I think it's been a long time. So it's hard for me to look back through all those years because I'm in my 30s now, so I came out when I was 19. So, you know, I had had some, I didn't have a lot of sexual experience. Not a lot. I'd had some prior to when I came out. So it's kind of hard for me, I would say that probably if I had stayed in that mold, it would have been more traditionally kind of intercourse centered heterosexual sex was was the normal thing for me to do and those and coming out as bisexual but I first came out as lesbian but coming out as lesbian and bisexual opened up, you know, a whole lot of other things. Oral sex became more important. Lots of other kinds of, are we getting to dodgy for the radio, oral sex became more important. More foreplay became more important, more games, more roles became more important. And it Yeah, it there is more of a sense of a play. I think when women get together, there's a tendency to be kind of silly and giggle a lot anyway. So

 O

12:29

there's morning pleasure back in sex.

 O

12:32

And there's, there's kind of a there's kind of an intimacy that's there. Women can be real close and real emotional. So I think it opened up, I think it I think it opened up a lot of things to me and also getting to know about gay man opened up a lot of things. To me a lot, awareness of different practices and different ideas about sexuality. The idea of, you know, more cut and dry sex sex, it's just, you know, good hard sex and, and, you know, sex that has a lot more a lot more intimacy, as opposed to sex as a lot more intimacy, as as opposed to the, you know, just going at it. So it made me aware of more of the spectrum of sexual activity. And as I said, it's been quite a while since I came out.

 G

Gigi 13:32

Okay. The che doesn't look that way baby.

 O

13:42

I became more aware of my partner's needs and wants, and it was easier for me to extend certain emotions to them. For example, there are times when a man may need something emotional from another man, but it would be deemed a feminine type of experiment. For example, something's bothering him a hug. And I'm not talking about one of these you just hit a home run hug, but a hug or a caring touch. And with women, sometimes the need to feel in

control. I'm not talking about to the extent of s&m Or no, I mean, say in sixth, sometimes a woman may need to feel that she's in control to a certain extent, because, you know, the societal norm is, you know, the guys on top and the girls on bottom and, you know, let the chips fall where they may and the would never have



15:00

been able to get this set, right.



15:03

Are you referring to reversal of roleplay?



15:07

Well, not maybe. Oh, come on. I will I don't I don't mean going into it. Yeah, I'm not saying that you have this. Tom. Hi, you have this set role that before we start, okay, it's, it's gonna be my turn to be the man. And it's your turn to be the woman and vice versa. What I mean, we say versatility. Yeah. Okay. versatility. I just pick I became more responsive to what my partner needs. Prior to that, I had the I think what is the the basic male heterosexual view of sex assailant when it comes to women? You know, the old standing joke? How long does it take a woman to have an orgasm? Who cares? You know, that used to used to be the attitude, but now I I'm pretty, I'm more sick J I



Michelle 16:21

just have to play among ourselves and just find it.



Gigi 16:26

I'm wanting to have forgot my way up to now.



16:30

I go into sex now. less selfish. I can even now during the course of having sex, I can tell them my partner is responding to what I'm doing. It used to be I was had one mindset me. And now they don't have to yell. Oh, you know, here here are like, if they can, you know, with subtle movements and subtle sounds, I can tell they like this or they don't like that. And that takes a little concentration on the other person. As opposed to just thinking about self that that's what, that's how six changed for me. It became more of an intimate, US thing than just a me thing.



Gigi 17:17

What about you, Michelle?

M

Michelle 17:20

Well, to be honest, I haven't really, really had that much success coming out. So I can't really say too much about it.

o

17:30

How sad. Yeah,

M

Michelle 17:32

it's very sad.

o

17:33

It's better.

M

Michelle 17:35

But I mean, to be honest, there really isn't much I can say about about this topic since I haven't.

o

17:42

What about your view? As far as my view? Sexually? Yeah.

M

Michelle 17:50

I don't know if To be honest, if they've really changed that much. I mean, I feel I feel more open to, to having different partners. And but, I mean, a more variety, a greater variety of potential partners, but my actual views on sex haven't really changed that much to be honest.

G

Gigi 18:11

Okay. I guess my next question, and this is even harder. Getting that spirituality, spirituality. Well, we're getting up on spiritual ground here. Have you noticed that kind of change in spirit or direction or mind or, or just perspective as bisexuals has, has life kind of come? With a whole different focus and awareness?



18:52

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, definitely not. I definitely noticed the more the the stigmatism or whatever that society places on everybody, right to fit into, okay, you're a male, you do this, you're a female, you do this, you know, and the thing is, spirituality. Well, I don't know if that's what I would call it but it's just being able to give being able to notice the hypocrisy in things that you know, why is all this necessary? You know, and also being and, you know, in finding that in myself, that I'm bisexual it also it's more of a balance. You know, you can you have kind of this balance of energies there. I mean, not that necessarily bisexuality means that you're also androgynous. I don't think that they go necessarily All together, but I think there's kind of a blending of energies.



Gigi 20:05

I'm on a cheat sheet ad. Yeah, but that's



20:08

different. But that's, uh,



20:10

everyone's entitled to their own opinion.



20:14

That's exactly that's a good point about what what Marlon just said, I've come to the point where I'm more open to suggestions in other people's opinions, as opposed to just mine. I'm much less apt to say, no, that's not how it goes. Or I stay away from this right? And what's wrong? It's like, oh, this is this. And let's, let's look at this. And let's explore this, as opposed to automatic condemnation.



Gigi 20:48

You are listening to Kpf T. Houston. 19.1.



Michelle 20:56

And this is after hours a continuing tradition.



21:00

Hey hot dog we got it in there Cool As a yes as limmy is not listening to us give another ID

...hey, not dog, we go out there. Soon as a yes, as Jimmy is not listening to us give another ID.

M

Michelle 21:11

So you may come back on about 10 minutes. Really, something I'd like to say about about I've really become aware recently, too, of just how much how much of gender roles are just just silly constructs to be honest. Like, for me, it wasn't so much coming out as bisexual. But but being exposed to this being exposed to the queer community, I mean, being exposed to two men who are not, we're not say masculine, and women who are not so feminine. And you know, just having my horizons broaden you like that really made me kind of question all of the values that I've seen in society, like sizes mentioned, act this way women should act this way. And I just once I became exposed to men and women who didn't act that way, then then I started to really start questioning those things.

G

Gigi 22:00

It sounds like there's a lot of diversity we're discovering. And I've seen this in the meetings that everyone that comes into the meeting is so uniquely different. And comes in and, and what I find is so amazing is this process of discovery that we all are been going through, it's really become dynamic.

M

Michelle 22:25

Yeah, something. It's kind of an amusing story. I was I was talking to somebody about the group. And she asked me, um, so what are people buying that like? And I kind of pause for a minute or two, and I was like, I was talking to someone else who was also in the group that I was saying,

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22:43

sharing invitations that come by and find out what we're like,

M

Michelle 22:47

I think I can honestly think not think of any two people in BiNet who are like, and, and, you know, Chris, these are things like, thought about it for a couple of minutes and was like, Yeah, you know, that's right. Yeah. I really, I still can't really think of FTM people and BiNet and who are alike and a lot of ways.

♀

23:07

Well, I mean, you go out in the street and get, you know, 14 or 15 people together and say, What are they like? Well, you can't say what they're like, I mean, they're individuals.



23:20

Like what's a lawyer like? Or what's a doctor? Like? What's a dentist like, or what's a plumber? Like?



23:26

Yeah, but I think it's important to with all the myths and misconceptions that exist about bisexuals, to keep reminding our audience and everybody else we run into that bisexuals are unique individuals and that we go through the coming out process in a unique way. And it's uniquely bisexual to the experience of coming out as bisexual is different in some ways, the experience of coming out as a lesbian or a gay man.



Michelle 23:57

Just to put a little plug for our group, find it Houston meets from seven to 9pm. On Wednesdays at the MCC our church, a 99 indicator. It's a group for bisexual by friendly or just just anyone who wants to come and learn about us. We're also it's the meanings are totally nonsexual GT was just being kind of campy earlier talking about meaning so you don't have to worry about like being this wild already occurring or anything.



24:27

Yeah, that's Darn it.



Gigi 24:29

We're working on.



24:32

One thing I think we need to bring out is that we, everything is not political. And everything is not traumatic. And everything is not such. We have fun also. I mean, we're light hearted people and we have a gut. We have



Gigi 24:51

meetings, we



24:52

find time to have fun also. I mean, we don't sit around and think about how much better things could would be or how terrible things are. It's life is fun

G

Gigi 25:05

Well, we explored diversity. One thing I would like to bring up, Michelle touched on is that we do welcome by friendly. And by by friendly, we mean anybody that straight or gay, but that identifies or transgender that identifies with the bisexual movement. And maybe they have you have a lover or significant other, that's bisexual, or maybe just questioning their sexuality, you're welcome to come and find out more about it. Part of our group mission is to provide education to the community.

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25:51

I feel like on our issue that we had introduced on spirituality, spirituality, basically, as a bisexual man, I feel like is, isn't as a deep inner being a need to be wanted and belong. And it's, it's a safe refuge. And I found some of that those qualities in the BiNet meetings, that it's a refuge, that individuals can go and share. And not be afraid not not have the fear element of being different. Rather, you can let down your guard, you can enjoy and relax after a long day of work, or we actually have where we add a human element to the, the life beyond so to speak.

∅

26:57

Yes, there's a closeness in the group that I like, it's just I don't know. I know, I felt it when I first walked in. It's just kind of instant acceptance. And it's just so hard to get unconditional acceptance. Here here, you know, I mean, it's just, it's just very, very difficult to find it. And that's, that's what I like about our little group is it's, you know, we all have our differences. But we still can respect one another. And when you still talk to one another, even with our differences,

G

Gigi 27:40

and it's not that we have to like everybody's differences to except those differences. And that's what's really cool about this group sometimes that impresses me a lot.

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27:51

I think another element to spirituality is being skeptical about things, being willing to question things.

G

Gigi 28:00

One thing, interesting point of view, one thing I kind of like to throw out too, and now that we've kind of brought in a little touch of paganism, we've brought in a little touch of gender identity issues that we've explored in the group, kind of like opened things up just to discussion

on in the series.



28:30

I think it's interesting that a lot of people are buying it will come in after considering the issues for a while and, and hearing about a lot of different experiences will decide that they don't believe in gender, particularly anymore.



28:44

Well, I don't know about that. I don't know. I mean, there's still certain things I like about the male gender and the female gender. I mean, I cannot just completely dismiss it altogether.



Gigi 28:58

It's also referring to self identified gender issues, in the sense of, Am I a man because I have something dangling between my legs, or my a woman because I don't have that dangling down there. You know, I know that I've gotten very much in touch with both my male side and my email side. And I think a lot of you know, I've heard this come up in meetings before was some some of the people let's go around and with everybody and see where everybody's at with that.



Michelle 29:40

I mean, personally. Personally, I feel that that who a person is inside is is much more important than, you know, people are not a collection of body parts. I mean, I really I really feel strongly about that, that. I mean, I relate to the person inside I mean, the only time I relate to the person outside would be like if I was, you know, having sex with them, that's good wishes, which is, you know, a tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny percentage of my life almost too tiny but



30:12

let's give ourselves a little more credit.



Michelle 30:18

And, you know, we've kind of had had some debates on this in the group. And, and that's what it really has always come down to for me is you know when people if people claim to be when a person claims you man crazy a woman I'm like, Okay, well, you know, it, do they do they feel like a man do they feel like a woman, you know, just relating to them, that that's what's the most important thing to me.



30:41

I think a lot of well, one thing that I've kind of enjoyed in all my contacts with lesbian and gay community is a willingness to play more with gender roles, and play more with the idea of what gender is, and for people to take on overtly, a little more of the characteristics of the opposite gender, I still think that comes to play in buying it. And, you know, having that sense of a sense of, that you can play around with your identity is an important part of, of BiNet, and an important part, an important thing in the bisexual community and, and something that I continue to be rewarded, and in my contact with the gay and lesbian community to find out is an important thing their jam. Well, I've



31:40

noticed in the group that men seem to be a little softer than that, quote, straight men or traditional male types. And women seem to be a little tougher than the average female. And I, you know, I mean, it's, there's subtle differences in some people and not so subtle differences and other people that you're talking about. Yeah, but I mean, it's, I find that kind of refreshing.



Gigi 32:23

Yeah, it's amazing. I mean, I'm gonna tell a little story about Jim. Oh, he's always going around hugging everyone in the meetings. And we're not talking sex here, we're talking just good, warm fuzzies. Just that kind of feeling good. Hugging and being a part with one another. Being family.



32:53

I think I think a big deal is with everyone, that we don't have these inhibitions brought on to us by feeling that we have to fit some role. I think that I think that's what makes it so easy. To, for me anyway, for being the group, it's like to hug a guy or hug a girl. That's simply what it is. It's a hug. It's not a prerequisite to sex. It's not, maybe, but no, it doesn't mean anything other than what it is. And you don't have this pressure of having to be what you're expected to be. You can be what you want to be, and be who you are. And finding a place to do that. Makes all the other issues of simply living from day to day a lot easier. That's why people take vacations and go to Aruba or wherever for a week is to get away and relax and be themselves. And you know, when you come back to your job, or come back to your wife or whatever, or husband, you may hate him, but it's like, well, I don't hate him. I still hate him. But I don't hate him as much. Now I can deal with them. And it's like, to me the group is a reprieve from the day to day BS. I can come there and be myself and nobody is going to point a finger and say, shame, shame, shame. Are you know better than that? Or you've been taught better than that? Or you should do this or you should do that. It's like, Hey, you're okay, I'm okay.



34:47

Shirts and curds really don't occur in society or they're just made up by human nature. Okay, what do you mean by that? Is something Wow. I don't what I believe that's a little Phil philosophical words. A lot of people use the word should and could because they don't want to come to grips with the reality they have to be responsible for their own decisions.



35:13

Okay? I see.



Gigi 35:17

One thing I've noticed in the group too is like what you're touching on the shy. There's this acceptance of all the diversity. It's like, some days I'll come in and lather and whips and shout toys and the whole bit. nother day dies out come in just more male side comes. You know, and it's like, I think one thing I keep hearing from new members that come over and over again, I keep hearing this is, you know, this is the first place I can just be myself, you know, be out as bisexual. And it feels so good to be out with some other people that understand. I know that, you know, it's like, for a long time, I thought, well, another's either bisexuals out there. But it wasn't until I started coming to these meetings that all of a sudden, I had people that I didn't have to explain anymore. While I was looking at the man walking down the street and the woman. It was like everybody could relate in the meetings. And it was like, so cool. Yeah, that's like, that's one of the cool things about bananas. You know, we can all kind of just be and, and even during meetings, it's like, you know, I can go over and give Jim a hug and kiss. And it's kind of funny when we go out after meetings, to restaurants. It's like, Well, you certainly get some legs. I'm kissing j one minute and Jim the next. But how do y'all feel about all this?



37:22

How do I feel about it? Yeah, about being close to men and women and the same place?



Gigi 37:27

environment? It's great, sir. Do you have any kind of insights or anything that stands out for you that that you get out of the meetings? I mean, why do y'all come to find out and keep coming?



37:47

No pun intended again? And again? Yes. Okay. Oh, yes, do it again.



37:54

I think it's, I think it's that sense of community and that sense of community that, that we really need each other. Because we are in our own particular in our own particular struggle. Where we are self identifying bisexuals, we're not just practicing sex with people of both genders. There's lots of people out there that do that, but we're doing we are self identifying as bisexuals. And because that is, I think, an inherently political thing. We need that sense of community. We're out there, you know, day in and day out, taking a lot of risks that a lot of

people that are reaping the rewards of being a practicing, you know, bisexual behavior aren't taking, we're taking a lot of risks for a lot of people and it's a place to come home to and a place where you kind of know that people have all gone through similar struggles as you and similar, some similar difficulties, and you can have a chance to look at those difficulties together and, and say, saying, you know, wow, despite all that, look at how far we've come and look at what we're able to accomplish now.

 Gigi 39:22

Michelle, you look like you were gonna say something.

 Michelle 39:27

For me, for me, the reasons that I've gotten divided have changed as time has gone on. I first started out coming to Biden and I had a lot of issues dealing with my bisexuality, you know, questioning that trying to find a place you know, to talk about, you know, things problems I had with being bisexual and, and developing an identity. Now, I tend to go to the group more for a sense of community, you know, like, just, just just feeling like I have a community is really a wonderful feeling and I That's from the main reasons I go to the group.

 Gigi 40:04

Marlon, what keeps bringing you back to the group? He's robbed. He's being robbed right now.

 40:19

Believe in a lot of emotional support. And I've seen that many groups that I've been involved with, since 87. For instance, since my move into Houston and the larger community I've seen only part or have been only part of my personality has been able to be supported, so to speak. And I finally found like, I was more of a

 40:58

I finally found that I was more of a whole individual being part. I felt like I had been involved in a realm of being evolving into a whole individual. And that was very important to me. I could relate to both sexes, I could relate to the entire community of bisexuality, because I was part of both personalities, all the personalities there. They're all family, they're all sense of community.

 Gigi 41:54

Yes. Back again. One thing I find that was really cool about this whole process, and I really think bisexuality is a process. It's a process of learning of self discovery, and of learning more ways to relate to other human beings. I know that. For me, it's been a very challenging and

rewarding experience to be a part of the Biden family. You know, it's like, I've learned a lot about my own self. I'm being told that it's time to wind down a bit. I'm so ready. Actually, I want to wind that



43:02

okay, yeah, we're winding winding up on this discussion, and we're gonna go visit for a while. Go ahead, Michelle.



Michelle 43:12

I was just gonna say let's go to the music. Oh.



43:17

Yeah, what a transition there.



Gigi 43:19

Oh, I want to smooth the whole, the whole bisexual experience has been a process of learning about not just sex, a sexuality or sexual orientation, but also learning about how complex human relationships are, and how complex it is to live in such a narrow society as we live in and trying to reach not only the gay world, but the straight world and being so invisible in all of it. You know, the issues of bisexuality get very, very muddled and mixed up so easily. And it's so cool to have a support network. A place where we can go and be ourselves and let our hair down baby. And with that, I'm gonna we're gonna go on to some music