**M6 – Gay Son**

**Interviewer:** How old was your son when you found out that your he was gay?

**M6:** What do you mean, how old was he? I had already noticed in Grade 7 that he was different—different from the other boys. I just realized he was gay, but I think he was still too shy and didn’t yet understand what was happening to him. Before he told me, he came to me in high school, in Grade 8.

**Interviewer:** And how did he tell you?

**M6:** He just said, Mom, I love men and not women. And it wasn’t even a shock to me because who am I to judge? I was raised to not judge other people. I loved my child and didn’t want to lose him.

**Interviewer:** What was your view on homosexuality before your son came out?

**M6:** Well, according to the Bible, as we were raised, I don’t believe it is the right thing. The Lord doesn’t approve of it. But I also can’t decide for the Lord. It’s a matter each person must resolve with the Lord. I just go on my knees and pray that the Lord will be merciful to my child because I don’t have that knowledge.

**Interviewer:** How do you think his school life was as a gay boy?

**M6:** Look, no one actually knew about it. He had many girlfriends because Jarrod (son) is very attractive. So at school, no one knew, I think.

**Interviewer:** And did anyone suspect it?

**M6:** I believe so.

**Interviewer**: If they knew he was gay, what do you think would have happened at school?

**M6:** They would have made him completely miserable at school. They would have expelled him.

**Interviewer:** What do you think would have happened?

**M6:** I think they would have assaulted him, mocked him—you know, that kind of thing.

**Interviewer:** Do you think schools are homophobic?

M6: I think so.

**Interviewer:** Why?

**M6:** Because they are not informed about these things. We were raised to believe no one could talk about it. It’s forbidden. It’s like the church saying we’ll one day see everything clearly in a mirror at the end. But that’s not how it works. The Bible is there, and if you read it deeply, the Lord reveals the answers to you.

**Interviewer:** How do you think gay children are treated in schools today?

**M6:** Very badly. I think parents face a big challenge there.

**Interviewer:** If teachers knew he was gay, do you think they would treat him differently?

**M6:** You see, it all depends on whether that teacher is prepared and informed to handle such a situation. Most are not informed and not ready to deal with it. They know too little about it.

**Interviewer:** If the school knew your child was being bullied, do you think they would have done something about it?

**M6:** Again, it depends on the principal and how they would have handled it. You understand? I can’t say. But if I were a principal, I would have handled it and brought in an expert to educate the staff on how to deal with such a child.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say the school didn’t know, but you did, and you found out your child was being bullied. What would you have done?

**M6:** I would have gone to them. I am honest enough to say. I would tell him that this is the problem my child is experiencing.”

**Interviewer:** Let’s say he was openly bullied and came to you, and you approached the school with the problem. Do you think that would have been the best course of action? How would you have handled it?

**M6:** Look, I don’t have all the wisdom to say that it would have been the right step, but I would have done it to protect my child—to do everything to ensure his happiness and that he could complete his school career.

**Interviewer:** Do you think you were the first or last to know he was gay?

**M6:** Look, we had known for a long time. We told his friends too, and they accepted it. They handled it very well.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say there was a problem at school and at home. How do you think you, as parents, and the school could have worked together to help the child? If he was bullied, what could you have done together?

**M6:** Well, I think we would have done all possible research on gay people and their behavior. I mean, they are not monsters. They are people like us. Yes, that’s what we would have done. Then we would have gone to the school and said, “This is the situation. Where do we go from here?”

**Interviewer:** Thinking about a homophobic school environment, what could you as a parent do to reduce it?

**M6:** I would again say bring in expertise to educate those people. Today, there are many more gay children in schools, but teachers—and the few who know—don’t talk about it.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think they don’t talk about it?  
**M6:** No, because they think, in a way, they are protecting that child.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say at school he wasn’t treated like any of the other children. What would you have expected the school to do?

**M6:** The school should have called us as parents and said they’ve noticed certain behavioral differences in my child.

**Interviewer:** And do you think they would have done that?

**M6:** I believe so.

**Interviewer:** Do you think your child’s principal would have done that?

**M6:** Well, I think a good principal and good teachers work with people. They don’t work with robots, so they would have had to do it.

**Interviewer:** How do you think the principal would have handled it?  
**M6:** I think they would have called us as parents and asked if we were aware that Jarrod was different from the other boys. Then we would have told them, “Yes.”

**Interviewer:** If he said different, in what way? Like your child is odd?

**M6:** Or like, “No, he dresses neatly, and he has more of a passion for boys than girls, or for the feminine gender.