

Finally, this parenthood discerning process reminded me a of a discussion that once happened when I was presenting LGBT 101 to a psychology class at Park University at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. During Q&A, someone in the class asked, “Don’t you agree that it’s unfair to the children for gays and lesbians to have kids?”

Hmmmm...

I paused, then turned the question back to the class and asked others what they thought. While some people agreed with the social stigma burden of children of gays and lesbians, a man offered that he is biracial - a black dad and white mom - and that many of the arguments people used against LGBT parents were once used against multiracial families.

I thanked him and then asked the question: “How many people in the room know a child who came into the world unplanned? A shotgun wedding? A one night stand? A night of drinking? A condom that broke?” Almost all hands went up and a few people laughed, “That was me!” or “That’s how I had all my kids!”

Then I said, “Well, generally, gays and lesbians who have children enter the process (and process we do!) very intentionally. There are a lot of discussions and planning that tend to happen. Most gay and lesbian people enter parenthood not by accident, but very consciously.”

People sat quietly and uncomfortably. Then I said, “Rather than framing the discussion of LGBT parents as harmful to children, could it even be possible that LGBT parents may offer strengths as parents?”

Now, as Oliver’s mom, these discussions are no longer theoretical. I can absolutely affirm that he is one very lucky boy and we are two very lucky, equal moms. ■

In The Family Way is written by Cathy Busha and Anna Deligio. Cathy and Anna are the new parents to son Oliver. Reach them at Cathleen\_Anna@JustOut.com

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