

Activity Name: Discussion of *Kissing Jessica Stein*

Purpose: To watch and analyze concepts from a queer Jewish movie

Time: 2 – 2.5 hours

Materials: a copy of *Kissing Jessica Stein*, a room, a TV, a VHS/DVD player

Activity: Start by viewing the film. Afterwards, discuss using the questions below and/or some of your own.

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Discussion questions:

What is the plot of *Kissing Jessica Stein*?

Who are the characters in the movie?

What part of the movie did you like the best?

What part of the movie did you like the least?

Martin accuses Helen of being “an affront to the gay community.” What makes a person a “good” gay (or LGBT) person? What makes a “bad” gay (or LGBT) person? What kind of gay people do you see in the media today?

Does anyone in this movie talk about Jessica as bisexual? Why do you think that is?

Does anyone in this movie talk about Helen as bisexual? Why do you think that is?

Bisexual people are often stuck in-between the gay and straight communities. How do we make bisexual people feel welcome in *our* community?

Jessica keeps her relationship with Helen secret until her mother indicates her approval of Helen. What do you think would have happened if Mrs. Stein hadn't seen it? Would Jessica have ever been able to tell our mother? Why is it so hard to come out to our families?

Helen and Jessica often disagree about whether their relationship is going well. What do you think makes a good relationship?

Do you think that the relationship was an experiment for Jessica? What makes you think this? If she was experimenting does that mean her feelings for Helen weren't real?