

WISE RELATIONSHIPS: WEEK 2

WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DATING, ANYWAY?

BIG IDEA

Dating leads to marriage, so date with purpose!

LESSON OVERVIEW

This week we'll explore the purpose of dating and spend some time discussing good and bad reasons to date. Plus, we'll acknowledge the often-thought-but-rarely-said-truth, "Dating is overrated!"

- Big Idea - Dating leads to marriage, so date with purpose!
- Bible - 1 Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 9:23; Ephesians 5:31-32; Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6:14
- Building Blocks – Scripture, Video, Discussion, Questions, Origami, Prayer.

WHAT?

VIDEO - Couples



{This video is 5 minutes. We would recommend previewing it and showing a little each week of this series. The interviews are cute, and the continuity between lessons will be effective and endearing to your students.}

DISCUSSION - Fun or Purpose

[Leaders, work to keep this discussion moving!]

Get in groups of 2-3 - make sure no one gets left out - and:

- Make a list of 5 things you do just because they're fun. (Ex: Fortnite, stealing your sister's candy, etc.)
- Make a list of 5 things you do that may be fun, but you do them with purpose. (Ex: Crossfit, practicing musical scales, etc.)

[Give 1 minute to discuss, then have a few groups share answers.]

Combine your group of 2-3 with another group of 2-3, and discuss:

- How would you describe the difference between the two lists? (Ex: thinking about the future, building towards something, etc.)

[It may be helpful to lead the whole group in this question until the conversation gets rolling. Give 2-3 minutes to discuss, then have a few groups share answers.]

Last question before we do something superfun:

- On which list would you put dating - "just because it's fun" or "with a purpose"? Why?

[Give 1 minute to discuss, then have a few groups share answers.]

ACTIVITY - Heart Origami

[Leader, you should make an origami heart before the lesson.]

Everyone grab a piece of red paper, and follow the instructions to fold an origami heart.

[Instructions can be found at <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-hearts.html>]

[Give 2-3 minutes, then move forward. Students can continue to work on the heart - we'll use it later in the lesson.]

VIDEO - Strangest Sound on a Date



Today we're going to encourage you to think about the difference between "going on dates" and "dating exclusively." And whichever you're doing, we're going to challenge you to date with purpose.

If you don't, you might end up with a guy like this.

[\[Show video.\]](#)

SO WHAT?

QUESTION - How could dating could be good for a teenager? How

[Leader, if your group dynamic allows it, ask this question from up front and interact with the responses, leading students to acknowledge that dating is neither good nor bad.]

SCRIPTURE - 1 Corinthians 10:31

31 *So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31*

- What does Paul (the writer of this passage) mean by “all” or “everything” in this passage? *[Have some fun with this, but land on the reality that Paul means “all” or “everything.”]*
- Since dating is part of the “all” or “everything” Paul talks about, **how can a teenager date “for the glory of God”?** *[Once the churchy and/or obvious answers run out, guide students to dig a little deeper.]*
 - One way to date to date with purpose.

Understanding Purpose

- Purpose of marriage:
 - To experience the fullness of the Kingdom of God and share it with others.
 - Philippians 3:8
 - 1 Corinthians 9:23
 - This is the same as our life purpose
 - Marriage is an extension of our lives as followers of Jesus
 - ***** We'll talk more about "how do i know if he/she is 'the one'" in week 3.*****
- Purpose of exclusive dating:
 - To prepare for marriage.
 - Ephesians 5:31-32
 - Before you date exclusively, ask:
 - Does this person share my love for Jesus?
 - ● ● Will we help each other grow in our faith?
 - Can I see us sharing our faith with others?
- Purpose of dating:
 - To get to know yourself
 - To get to know the kind of person you like
 - Philippians 2:3-4
- Pushing a little bit more, what if you viewed dating in these three stages:
 - Middle School – get to know yourself
 - ● Early High School – get to know the kind of person you like
 - Late High School and after - get to know an individual to see if the two of you were made for marriage relationship

NOW WHAT?

If You're Going to Date ...

1. Date where you can spend time building your relationship.

- Movies are fun, but they're not great dates, because you can't talk and build your relationship
- *[Ask your students:]*
 - What are some good date ideas where you can spend time being **active participants** VS **passive recipients**?
 - *[Give a minute to interact with the discussion.]*
- ***** We'll talk more about "ideas for fun dates" in week 4.*****

2. Date as a group.

- *[Ask your students:]*
 - What are some good group date ideas?
 - *[Give a minute to interact with the discussion.]*

3. Date wisely; set good boundaries.

- Physically
 - If you wait until you're alone to decide where your boundaries are, it's too late.
 - ***** We'll talk about the question, "how far is too far" in week 4.*****
- Emotionally
 - Guard your heart
 - The word "love" is super cheap in our society.
 - I love my pizza
 - I love my best friend
 - I love my spouse
 - Which "love" do I mean?
 - What if you waited to say "I love you" until you sense the person you're saying it to is God's best for you.
 - *[Hold up your heart origami.]*
 - Remember the heart origami – your heart is fragile and delicate and handcrafted by God – treat it with kindness and grace

4. Date Christ-followers.

- 2 Corinthians 6:14
- Dating a Christ-followers only doesn't mean that we think we are better than non-Christians. It means that we trust God and that His way is best.
- Can you imagine marrying someone who would never share your faith, never pray for you or your kids, never worship with you ...

5. Date with purpose.

- Ask good questions
- Seek wise counsel
- Be honest with yourself

PRAYER

[Same as last week, print copies of <http://www.storylineblog.com/Storyline-Identity-in-Jesus.pdf> (or create your own "identity in Christ" handout) for each student.]

[Close your session in prayer.]

- [Have an adult open in prayer, and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to each person.]
- [Invite students prayerfully to read over the handout, and as one of the identity passages resonates with them, read it aloud.]
- [Close the prayer time and dismiss.]

Dating is Overrated

- Especially in Middle School and High School.
- There's nothing appropriate that you gain in dating that you can't gain from a close friendship.
- If you are going to date, commit to dating with purpose.
- ***** We'll talk more about "exclusive dating" in week 3.*****