



Don't Get It Twisted Who Should I date? (Mar 10)

Series Summary: This series will challenge us to have God-honoring and pure relationships. We can find what type of person we should be “looking for” as we see the path God wants us to stay on. Our identity is in Christ and we should strive to be holy in every aspect of our relationships. The series will conclude with the awareness that God loves us unconditionally and we should live for him because of that.

Get Them Talking: What are some non-physical attributes of someone that you would like to date (ie trusting, patient, Christ-follower, etc...)?

What are some red flags that would let you know that you should not date that person?

What are some red flags that you see in yourself that would let you know you aren't ready or shouldn't date someone, yet?

Time to be honest with ourselves

- Do you have any of those attributes that you are looking for in someone else (ie are you pure, trusting, patient, etc...)?
- Do you see some of those red flags in yourself?

Leader Note: Having God-honoring principles and standards is not a bad thing. We should have principles and standards that we stick to 100% of the time. But what we are trying to help students see is that they should be infinitely more focused on holding themselves to a God-honoring standard.

Matthew 7:3-5 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. 6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

What is Jesus telling us in this passage?

Why is it so easy for us to ignore the problem and sin areas in our life (our plank)?
What happens when we do this?

(8-12) What is a speck in your own eye right now? What is an area of your life that you need to get right before you even think about dating someone else?

Dating Principle (would you date you?): So often we convince ourselves that the problem is with someone else rather than with us (Matthew 7:1-6). "If I could fix the people around me then everything would work out just fine." When we think this way we never see our own faults and we never ask the question, "Would I date someone like me?"

CLEAR DIRECTIONS

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Why? Who we surround ourselves with, especially our inner circle, always impacts our faith and relationship with Jesus. Who we date is no different. If they are not also pursuing after Christ you have no business dating them.

Do not date someone with the future plan to lead them to Jesus or with the mindset "I will fix them."

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

We are running a race. The finish line is eternity with Jesus, living a life that pleases Him and leading as many to be with him as we can. Paul is trying to encourage us to run that race with intentionality and passion, like an Olympic sprinter. He is encouraging us to keep our relationship with God our top priority and to do everything we can to live for Him. So, how does this apply to dating?

Dating Principle (How is your pursuit of Jesus?): If there is something in your life that is hindering you from running your race well (pursuing Jesus & making disciples) then you need to cut that thing out of your life. If that thing is who or how you date you have your answer.

How do you know if something (dating or anything else) is hindering you from running your race well? What are the signs of that?

(10-12) Should you only date someone that you could one day marry? Why or why not?

Leader Note: This is not a question to encourage a high school student to get married soon (I promise)! But we do want them to see that if you would never in a million years marry that person then why are you dating them?