



DATING & ENGAGEMENT
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April 19, 2015

When a man & woman who both love & serve Jesus decide to pursue a relationship beyond friendship & leading towards marriage.

Understanding God's Vision for Marriage is Key to

Understanding Dating

- (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33)

“Me First”

Key Questions to Ask Before Dating or Engagement

If You're Dating Someone Right Now...

Next Steps

- I commit to talk through the Key Questions with the person I am dating or engaged to starting this week.
- I commit to apply one or more of the “Me First” application points starting this week.
- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.



Lesson Aim: To grow in understanding God's vision for dating and relationships.

Ice-breaker: Where did you go on your very first date? OR If you haven't been on a date, where would you like to go?

Open in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time together.

1. Pastor Josh referenced that relationships are about becoming the right type of person rather than finding the right type of person. What does this mean? How do you do this?
2. **Read Ephesians 5:21-33.** If you are dating, or counseling someone who is dating, how would you utilize these scriptures?
3. In dating and building a relationship, when should topics such as spirituality and life's goals and dreams be discussed? Why?
4. **Read Matthew 19:4-6.** What does it mean to become "one flesh"?
5. In this weekend's teaching, it was referenced that it is more important to pursue friendships, not dates, when meeting people. Why is this relevant to dating?

6. When beginning a relationship and/or dating, why is it so important to do group activities?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 6:12-20.** How would you apply this scripture to dating and choosing a future spouse?
8. If you were to give your top spiritual or personal advice to someone who was beginning to date, what would it be?

Daily Devotional Plan – Scriptures to help remind us that we are called to follow Jesus closely.

Day 1 – Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 2 – 1 Peter 4:8

Day 3 – Romans 12:9-10

Day 4 – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Day 5 – Proverbs 4:23

Day 6 – Hebrews 13:4

Day 7 – Romans 12:1-2

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?)
- What do you think? (What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?)
- What will you do? (What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?)
- Now talk to God (Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.)

Message: *Dating & Engagement*

Series: *The Me in We*

4.19.15

A possible definition for “Christian dating”:

When a man and woman who both love & serve Jesus decide to pursue a relationship that is deeper than friendship & leading towards marriage

God’s Design for Marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Luke 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33)

“ Me First” when it comes to dating:

- Make staying close to God your top priority
- It’s more about becoming the right kind person than it is about finding the right person
- Remember that there are some real positives to being single (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)
- Pursue Friendships, Not Dates
- Actively strive to personally grow in the areas of communication (we will have a introductory class on Communication & Conflict Resolution on May 3), financial responsibility & sexual purity

Key Questions to Ask Before Dating & Engagement

- Is the person ready (or moving towards being ready) to leave the emotional and financial dependency of their family?
- Is this person honest with me? Do they lie to me? Do they hide things?
- Do we have intimate conversations? Do we talk about life? Are they open with their struggles?
- Do we talk about life’s dreams and goals and expectations? Do they talk about their relationship with God?

For the women:

- Can the person you’re dating or desiring to date lead you spiritually?
- Does he have a ministry? Is he supportive of your ministry?
- Does he show a genuine concern for your holiness?
- Do you have any doubt that he’s seeking the Lord in everything he does? Do you trust that he is praying and thinking through his decisions in a God-honoring way?

For the men:

- Is she supportive of you and your ministry?
- Is she willing to follow your leadership?
- Is she showing respect for the decisions you make?

If You're Dating Someone Right Now...

- Put God at the center of all you do (live a life of worship, which includes your romantic life)
- Stay plugged in with people and group activities (don't isolate or be secretive!)
- Serve in ministry
- At minimum, see what a person is like in every season of the year before engagement-
- Respect the input and opinions of friends, family & spiritual leaders
- Seek out godly examples & take initiative in getting their input
- Be open and honest about your past (over time)
- Ask the right questions when it comes to physical temptation
- Ask: Can I see myself spending the rest of my life with this person?