

it's complicated!

Week 3 Leader Guide

Leader Tip: Encourage those who are married to use their single and married experience in the conversation.

the win

The group member will be challenged to pursue significant others in a Christ-like fashion without falling victim to temptations in dating by identifying the need to abstain from sexual immorality.

1-2
minutes

sermon recap: what did the text mean? what does it mean?

In this week's message we focused on dating as well as some of the pitfalls and pressures found in dating. We learned that knowing these things can help us better understand the concept of dating, as a whole, and how dating can bring glory to God.

10-15
minutes

warm up

Do This:

Break off into groups of 3 and use your phone to find a myth about relationships. Ex. Pursuing a significant other (only pursue them if it is love at first sight), going on a date (having all the answers on the first date), cohabitation (it's test driving marriage), etc.

After finding a myth, find a verse that combats that myth.

Come back together and share your findings with one another.

30-35
minutes

the text: what does it mean for me?

Have Someone Read:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Say This:

Paul is giving a direct command to the church in Thessalonica as well as us: do not commit sexual immorality. Plain and simple. He writes that committing sexual immorality hinders us in our sanctification, or our ability to become more like Jesus.

Ask This:

- Why do we find it hard to follow this command?

Have Someone Read:

Matthew 5:27-30

Say This:

Jesus very clearly states that you commit adultery simply by looking at someone in a lustful way. He goes on to say that if one of your body parts causes you to sin to get rid of it.

Ask This:

- Jesus doesn't intend for us to literally gouge out our eye or throw away our arm when we look at someone in such a way, but what message is he trying to communicate in vs. 29 & 30 when He commands us to do so?
- What does Jesus mean when he says: "For it is better to lose one of your parts than your whole body be thrown into hell"?
- What does "gouging out an eye" or "throwing away an arm" look like for us?
- Going back to 1 Thessalonians, why do you think Paul places such a high emphasis on sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) for the Christian?
- How does this reflect when you engage those who are not Christ followers?

Leader Tip: This may not be an easy question for you or your group members to answer. Help direct the conversation toward the idea that we should be striving for sanctification daily through our actions, our words, and our example in order to proclaim the Gospel to non-Christians. This includes how we conduct ourselves in sexual purity.

Do This:

Have all the men and women group up separately for this section of the discussion. Men in one room and ladies in another room.

Leader Tip: You will want to have at least 2 copies of the questions below printed out for each group to go over.

QUESTIONS:

- Think back to the warm up we did at the beginning of our time together, why do you think there are so many misconceptions about dating and relationships?
- How has culture's view of dating and relationships affected our overall view of dating and relationships? What aspects of this dating culture have you adopted in your own life?
- Have someone read 1 Corinthians 6:18. Sexual immorality by nature is a very different sin. It is not worse than other sins, but its effects are very different than other sins. In response to this Scripture, how does viewing pornography or having sex outside of marriage affect your view on the opposite gender?
- Talking in the realm of dating, what boundaries as an individual or as a couple have you set up to prevent you from making mistakes? How are you enforcing those boundaries?
- Let's look back at 1 Thessalonians 4:8. Paul writes that whoever rejects the command to abstain from sexual immorality does not reject man, but rather rejects God. How does this verse help us in our understanding of obedience?
- Besides setting up boundaries, what are some other practical steps you are taking in order to avoid pitfalls in relationships (both in dating and in marriage)?

5-10
minutes

digging deeper

If you have time remaining, check out this article about keeping relationships (both in dating and in marriage) pure.

<http://chastity.com/blog/how-to-keep-your-relationship-pure>