

# *it's complicated!*

## Week 3 Member Guide

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.

30-35  
minutes

### *the text: what does it mean for me?*

#### **Have Someone Read:**

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

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

#### **Have Someone Read:**

Matthew 5:27-30

- 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?

#### **QUESTIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN:**

- 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?

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- 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>