
Introduction

No one wants to be alone. As human beings we desire relationships with others. God created us as social beings. *"And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'"* (Genesis 1:18)

Then God instituted marriage, *"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it..."* (Genesis 1:24a).

Here we see that God desires for men and women to develop relationships leading to marriage. But how do we decide whom we will marry? Do we date only people we wish to marry? In this study we will learn ways God wants us to develop Christian relationships through dating.

What Dating Is And Isn't

PROVERBS 4:7 "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

1. Do you think dating with courtship is sometimes confuse? Do you think our culture confuses the two? What clues reveal there may be confusion?
2. It's been said that common dating practices today prepare one for divorce. Why doesn't modern dating promote healthy relationships?
3. What can one learn about another person on a date?
4. What are some wrong reasons to date?

PROVERBS 3:1-2 "My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you."

PROVERBS 4:1-2 "Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law."

5. What are some rules/advice your parents have regarding dating?
6. Why do you think they give you those rules/advice?

Who to Date

PROVERBS 11:14 "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

1. To whom do you go for counsel?
2. Give reasons why counsellors urge youth to group date.
3. Is It Okay For Christians To Date Non-Christians?

YES Position: _____

NO Position: _____

Malachi 2:15-16
2 Corinthians 6: 14-17
1 Corinthians 15:33
Mark 16:15

4. What are some things you should know about a person before dating him or her? What standards and values do you look for?

5. What do the following proverbs teach us about whom to date and not to date?

Proverbs 13:20
Proverbs 22:24-25
Proverbs 24:1
Proverbs 28:7

6. How can one decline a date request graciously?

Dating Activities

ECCLESIASTES 11:9 "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment."

1. God wants you to enjoy life. Dating ought to be an enjoyable experience. What are some activities that you would like to do on a date?

2. What is the one warning that the above verse gives about choice of activity?

I Thessalonians 4:3-8.

3. What are some bad ideas to do on a date?

Eg. I Corinthians 6:18-20.

How to Behave on a Date

GALATIANS 5:14 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"

1. What kind of "love" is being referred to here?

NOTE: This is not referring to sexual love. Remember God's commandments regarding adultery and covetousness.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

2. Everyone likes to feel that they fit in and that others like their company. What are some ways to make group dates fun and help everyone have a good time?

3. How can we show esteem, or honour, to our dates? What are some common mistakes in this area?

4. Can you think of ways we can act responsibly on dates?