



DATEABLE

DATEABLE ONE: WHY DATE?

BOTTOM LINE

WHAT CAN I DO TO CARE ABOUT YOU?

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THINKING ABOUT WHY THEY WANT TO DATE; AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PRACTICE CARING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE MORE THAN THEMSELVES.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

MARK 12:31

Leader Note: If you don't typically separate your small groups by gender, this series is a great time to give it a try.

FROM THE TENSION

1. Do people at your school use the term *dating*? If so, what does that mean? If not, what terms do they use?
2. Why do you want to date?
3. Why is it important to think about why you want to date?

FROM THE TRUTH

4. Describe some ways people are *me-focused* when it comes to dating.
5. What's the difference between being *me-focused* and *others-focused*? What does being *others-focused* look like?

FROM THE APPLICATION

6. Even if you're not dating anyone, what's one thing you could do differently when it comes to caring about other people?
7. How will that one change set you up for better dating relationships down the road?

NEXT STEP

Leaders, at some point this week, text your students and remind them of this week's bottom line. **What can I do to care about you?** Encourage them to do one thing to care about someone else this week.



DATEABLE

DATEABLE TWO: CATFISHING

BOTTOM LINE

THERE'S A PLACE FOR FACE-TO-FACE.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT LEARNING THE ART OF FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATIONS WILL HELP THEM MORE THAN JUST HIDING BEHIND TECHNOLOGY.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

2 JOHN 1:12

FROM THE TENSION

1. What's your favorite way to communicate with people?
2. In what ways do we change who we are when we communicate using technology?
3. Why is communicating face-to-face so much more difficult than texting?

FROM THE TRUTH

4. In his letter, John mentions that some things need to be talked about in person. What kinds of conversations do you think should always happen face-to-face?
5. Based on your answer to #4, why is it important to have those conversations in person?

FROM THE APPLICATION

6. How does being physically present but "checked out" make you less dateable?
7. What's one thing you can do differently to be brave in face-to-face conversations?
8. What could hold you back from doing that?

NEXT STEP

Leaders, let your students know that face-to-face is what makes small group so much better than a group text or social media. Explain to them how it makes a difference.



DATEABLE

DATEABLE THREE: PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

BOTTOM LINE

BECOMING SOMEONE > FINDING SOMEONE

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO FOCUS MORE ON BECOMING A DATEABLE PERSON THAN FINDING SOMEONE TO DATE.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

FROM THE TENSION

1. What qualities do you look for in someone you'd like to date?
2. Why do most people think more about *finding* the right person to date than they think about *becoming* the right person?

FROM THE TRUTH

3. What's one way a person can be *patient* when it comes to dating?
4. The Bible says, "Love does not envy." What's the opposite of being an envious person?
5. What are some of the benefits of becoming someone who practices things like patience, kindness, and not being envious?

FROM THE APPLICATION

6. Again, think about some of the qualities you're looking for in the person you date. How can you practice one of those this week?
7. Whether or not you're dating someone, how will your future be impacted if you decide to practice these qualities today?

NEXT STEP

Leaders, encourage your students to write down the qualities they're looking for in the person they want to date. Pray for your group. Ask God to help them become the kind of person who has these qualities.



DATEABLE

DATEABLE FOUR: YES OR NO?

BOTTOM LINE

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO," IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS A BETTER "YES" IN MIND.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

TO HELP STUDENTS SEE THAT GOD'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IS TO LOVE US, AND FOR US TO LOVE OTHERS; AND TO HELP THEM SEE THAT GOD ISN'T TRYING TO MAKE US MISERABLE BY TELLING US TO WAIT UNTIL MARRIAGE TO HAVE SEX—HE'S EXPRESSING HOW MUCH HE LOVES US AND THE PEOPLE AROUND US.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

MARK 12:30-31

FROM THE TENSION

1. Have you ever gotten the "talk"? If so, who had the talk with you?
2. What are some of the reasons you've heard why someone should wait until marriage to have sex? What are some reasons you've heard why someone *shouldn't* wait?

FROM THE TRUTH

3. In what ways does sex change the nature of a relationship?
4. How does waiting to have sex until marriage show love for other people?
5. We've all messed up in multiple ways? Why is it so hurtful to judge people who have messed up in the area of sex?

FROM THE APPLICATION

6. Even if you're not dating someone, why is it a good idea to decide ahead of time what you believe about sex?
7. Who is someone you could talk to about setting boundaries in this area?

NEXT STEP

Leaders, let your students know that you're available to talk about anything pertaining to this topic. Assure them that you won't be judgmental or condemning.