

Dating by the Book – as series for parents

Week 4

Welcome (this is being recorded so...)

Last 3 weeks

- Week 1 – Dating: the basics, the Bible, and the Body of Christ
- Week 2 – Being and becoming ready to date
- Week 3 – Finding the right one in a wrong world

Tonight – The Role of Parents in Dating: Preparation, Protection and Proposals.

So here we are – now what? What do we do now – exactly...?

Our kids are at one of three different stages...

- Children – Preparation
- Youth – Protection
- Adult – Proposals

Children – Preparation (1 day old to pre-pubescent)

- Come to a unified definition of dating
- Decide when the “birds and bees” talk will happen
- Decide when dating will start, what will happen, etc.

- If you can be observant of other families who are farther along than you are – watch and learn!
- Keep eyes open for puberty and when it hits do what you have decided to do!
- Remember – this is all about glorifying God first!

Youth – Protection (sexually developed, dependent)

- Start “dating” your kids
- Come to a unified definition of dating, when it will start, how it will happen, and what will happen, etc.
- If you cannot, seek wise counsel – it might be about more than this...
- Develop a game plan for sharing this with the kids in a way that encourages, not exacerbates
- Think through personality considerations of each kid, effective communication styles, who should be teaching, etc.
- Think through their dating experiences and views
- Think through their friend’s dating experiences and views
- If they are already dating – anticipate emotional reactions – and be ready to gently teach through them.

- Remember this is a process
- Remember how control / influence factors change during the youth years
- Set boundaries and protect them for themselves and others.
- Remember, how you do this reflects upon why you are doing it
- For God? For them? For ourselves?

Adult – Proposals

- When they are ready to date – teach them how to find the right one in a wrong world!
- Teach them your expectations – get “buy in”
- Teach them about Biblical marriage AND about being Biblically married
- Be part of the process of dating – as a wise counselor, safe place to be, etc.
- Dating Covenant Form
- “Pre-Engagement” booklet – 5\$
- Remember the beauty of marriage – it’s good!