

# Dating by the Book – as series for parents

## Study Questions

Questions from Week 1 – Dating: the basics, the Bible and the Body of Christ

How does Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4, and Colossians 3:21 inform your view of dating as parents?

What are some reasons that dating is so often a confusing and contentious subject today?

Based on all of this, why is it necessary for parents to truly know what they believe about dating?

Dating by the book definition:

“Dating (Romans 12:1) is a God-focused (Colossians 3:17), mutually edifying relationship (Romans 14:19) that has as its intentional goal (Philippians 3:14) the glorification of God (1 Corinthians 10:31) through Biblical marriage (Genesis 2:18-25, Ephesians 5:22-33).”

- At what points do you agree and or disagree with this definition?

Questions from week 2 – Being and Becoming Ready to Date by the Book

Based on your agreed upon definition of dating – when will your kid(s) be ready to date and how do they need to get ready? (Use the following for guidance)

Dating (Romans 12:1)

- Are they ready to embrace your definition of dating?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If not, what do you need to do to address that?

is a God-focused (Colossians 3:17)

- Is your kid(s) God-focused? If so, on what?
  - o If not, what do they need to change their focus on and how can you influence that?

mutually edifying relationship (Romans 14:19)

- Does your kid(s) edify anyone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you encourage their relationships to be mutually edifying?

that has as its intentional goal (Philippians 3:14)

- What intentional goals have you set for your kid(s) and what intentional goals do they have for themselves?

- How does one change their goals? How does one influence others to change their goals? How can you do this with your kid(s)?

the glorification of God (1 Corinthians 10:31 )

- What does your kid(s) do to glorify God on a regular basis?
  
- What is or will be difficult about glorifying God in dating?

through Biblical marriage (Genesis 2:18-25, Ephesians 5:22-33)

- Do you agree with the Biblical definition of marriage?
  
- Does your kid(s) see a Biblical marriage being worked out at home?
  - o How will this influence their dating?
  
- How can you help your kid(s) understand the Biblical definition of marriage?

The GIFT of singleness – read 1 Corinthians 7:17, 27, 32-34, 35

- Does your kid(s) see singleness as a gift or a burden?
  
- How can you change how they see it?

Questions from week 3 – Find the Right One in a Wrong World

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 and 7:1 – do you believe that a Christian should only date and marry other Christians?

How do the following verses inform your definition of “Christian”

- Romans 10:9
  
- Galatians 5:16-25
  
- Matthew 22:37, 1 John 4:8
  
- Hebrews 10:25, 13:17

For parents of daughters – How do the following verses inform your understanding of what a future husband should be or be moving towards becoming?

- Ephesians 5:25-33
  
- Genesis 2:20-24, Ephesians 5:22-24
  
- Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6
  
- 1 Timothy 3:1-9

For parents of sons – How do the following verses inform your understanding of what a future wife should be or be moving towards becoming?

- Genesis 2:20-24

- Ephesians 5:25-27
- 1 Peter 3:1-6
- Proverbs 31:10-31

How much of an influence does physical attraction have on how your kid(s) views their potential spouse / dating prospects?

- Is that OK? If not, what needs to change and how can you affect that change?

Which of these places would you encourage your kid(s) to look for "the one"?

- Their local church
- Through Friends who have friends...
- Starbucks / College / Gym / work
- Other?

How would you encourage them to do it?

How much does your kid(s) want you to be involved in helping them find "the one"?

## Week 4 – The Role of Parents in Dating: Preparation, Protection and Proposals

For the parents of “children” (1 day old to pre-pubescent)

- When and how will the “birds and bees” talk happen?
  
- When will you allow dating to start and what will be aloud?
  
- What families can you be observant of as they go through dating issues with their older kid(s)?

For the parents of “youth” (sexually developed, dependant)

- How can you start “dating” your kids?
  
- How will you share your definition, limitations and expectations about dating with your youth in a way that encourages, not exacerbates?
  
- How does their personality type, dating experiences and relational issues with parents inform how you will address this?
  
- If they do not date the way that you would have them, what are the consequences?

For the parents of “adults” (18 years old, ability to be independent)

- How much do they want you to be a part of the dating “experience”?
  - o As wise counselor
  - o As someone to help them find a spouse
  - o As someone who helps with boundaries
  
- Can you take them through the Dating Covenant Form or the “Pre-Engagement” booklet? If so, do it!