

Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 12, 2023

Relationship Goals – Dating, Marriage, and Romantic Relationships

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Share something you wanted really bad, but after you got it, it didn't live up to your expectations.
- What do you think the correlation is between expectation and joy?
- What do you think makes it difficult to let go of expectations?

MAIN POINT

Dating should be a way to pursue a Godly marriage.

A Godly marriage is built on selflessness, rather than selfishness.

REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

- What are some expectations people have about marriage and dating?
- If you are married, how did you come to the decision to be married?
- What are the dangers of seeking a serious relationship with someone and only thinking about what they can do for you?
- Do you think it's wrong to want a spouse who makes you happy? Why or why not?
- Do you think arranged marriages, like what was done in Bible times, are better than people choosing their own spouse? Why or why not?

- When can it be GOOD to reconsider a romantic relationship?
- When can it be BAD to reconsider a romantic relationship?

The 4 biblical purposes for marriage are to...

- 1) Reflect the image of God.**
- 2) Be a picture of Jesus' relationship with the church.**
- 3) Create a stable environment for children to learn of God.**
- 4) Provide a haven for love, personal growth, and intimate companionship.**

- How can marriages, or other relationships, reflect the image of God?
- How is Jesus' relationship with His church proclaimed through a healthy biblical marriage?
- How does a healthy biblical marriage help children to learn of God?
- How does working through difficulties help us to grow and become closer with our spouse or other relationships?
- We are in a section in Ephesians that is teaching about wisdom. What is the wisdom that is needed in romantic relationships; both dating and marriage?

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ask for any prayer requests that anyone may have.

*****Remember to create a prayer request journal where you will write down the prayer requests and the corresponding praise reports*****