



RELATIONSHIP GOALS

CREW LEADER GUIDE



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RELATIONSHIP GOALS

SERIES OVERVIEW

I'm sure you've all seen The social media status update that say: "It's complicated." and it's true. Relationships are complicated. The process of navigating through relationships can be one of the the most confusing and frustrating parts of life.

Through this six-part series we hope to shed some light, and biblical clarity on what can be a very confusing, misleading and potentially dangerous season of life. We will take a look at what it means to live a God honoring life through every season: from being single, to looking for love, to dating the right way, and even what it means to find lasting love, stay pure, and get married the way God intended it.

We hope you join for all 6 parts of this informative series. We know it will be a blessing to you. Everyone has a next step, and building a solid foundation when it comes to relationships might just be yours. So... lets get started.

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

JOHN 8:32



START HERE

SET THE TONE WITH PRAYER

Begin your time together with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak to each person.

Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

EPHESIANS 1:17

PREPARATION

The purpose of this guide is to equip and prepare you as the Crew Leader to lead your crew in discussion about the topic of Relationships. Review the video and guide prior to your crew so that you can be prepared to answer questions and lead the discussion. Consider your “audience” and tailor the content to best fit your crew.

RESOURCES

Relationship Goals

MICHAEL TODD

New rules for love, sex and dating

ANDY STANLEY

Swipe Right

LEVI LUSKO

LESSON ONE

LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACES

INTRO

I have learned something very interesting about life: through conversations, observations and experience. We are all looking for something.... it's different during different seasons of life, but we're always doing it. Looking for love, or community, for acceptance, special someone. We are born with it, it is wired into us, it is how we were created by God. There is nothing wrong with searching but there are two major problems and traps that arise in a world that is looking....lets take a look at what those are.

▶ WATCH**LESSON ONE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACES****CREW DISCUSSION****PROBLEM ONE : LOOKING FOR LOVE IN THE WRONG PLACES.**

It's like losing your keys and spending hours searching your bedroom, only to find them on the coffee table or the fridge. It didn't matter how hard you searched, what you were looking for wasn't there...you were looking in the wrong place.

This happens in our world all the time...honestly, you may be doing this in your own life right now. You might be searching for community, meaning and purpose through social media...and you'll never find it.

You might find a forgery, but not the real thing.

PROBLEM TWO : SETTLING FOR A FORGERY.

Because everyone is looking...sometimes impatiently... we are susceptible to deception. We settle for a forgery, or a false version of the real thing.

GOD CREATED

Beauty, love & sex

Truth & identity in Christ

Blessing & Happiness

COUNTERFIET

Lust, pornography & adultery

Subjective truths and identity

Greed, material possessions & temporary pleasures

Everything God has created was good, but the devil has twisted and made a counterfeit version of it. Everything Good that God has for us...there is a counterfeit version of it.

When someone makes a counterfeit version of a \$20 bill, they don't make a \$19 dollar bill. That would be obvious to spot...They create a version of the \$20 bill as close as possible, almost unrecognizable. The devil loves to twist what God created and lead people to choose that counterfeit version over the real thing.

TRUSTING GOD IN THE WAITING

This idea of settling for a counterfeit is probably most common in the area of dating and relationships. What we need to do instead is trust in God and wait on him.

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

PSALM 37:4

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

MATTHEW 6:33

If there is any main point to this first lesson it's this: Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. God wants you to have the desires of your heart. He wants you to meet someone who will be the best for you. Whatever it is that you are looking for... The best place to find the authentic version of it is in Christ. Seek God and he will give you the desires of your heart,... everything else will be added to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What are you looking for in this season of your life?*
2. *What do you think is the most God honoring way to find what you are looking for?*
3. *What does it look like in everyday life to stop looking for and settling for fake versions of things?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON TWO

DATING DONE RIGHT

INTRO

Dating is a multi-billion dollar business. It's everywhere: books, magazines, seminars, TV shows, dating websites, dating apps and matchmaking services. Everyone has an opinion on how to do dating right. In if we are not careful, we will get caught up in following a worldly standard of dating that is not God honoring.

▶ WATCH

LESSON TWO DATING DONE RIGHT

CREW DISCUSSION

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:1-2

COUNTER CULTURE LIFESTYLE

As followers of Christ, we are called to live a counter culture lifestyle, honoring God with all we do. The Pattern of the world when it comes to dating is this: If you are attracted to someone and they are attracted to you... Date them, sleep with them, move in with them...then if it isn't working out, break up and try again with someone else.

I call this Recreational dating: Recreational dating is dating without a purpose. It's just for temporary pleasure and fulfilling the flesh. This is the worlds view of Dating...it's not Gods plan.

SOMETHING BETTER

We are called to something else, something better that will lead to more health and happiness for all. Dating was designed as a way to prepare and transition people from being single to being married. Dating has a destination, dating is not the destination in itself. So many people date without a destination in mind... they just go around in circles.

So the intent was that someone looking to date was doing so with the intention of getting married. Approaching dating without the intention to get married makes no logical sense.

“Dating without the intent of getting married is like going to the grocery store with no money. You either leave unsatisfied or you take something that isn’t yours.”



THINGS TO LOOK FOR

Someone who loves God, serves others.

Someone who is planted in the local church and has a strong sense of their own identity in Christ.

Someone who has strong healthy relationships in their life (friends, family, and in the church).

Someone who exhibits good qualities: (honesty, hard worker, commitment, humility, authenticity, consistency).

THINGS TO AVOID

Someone with a lot of issues and baggage that you think you can fix.

Someone you are attracted to but doesn’t love God and is not planted in church. (Dating is not evangelism)

Someone who exhibits poor qualities (Lazy, apathetic, arrogant, lack commitment)

Someone who has many failed relationships (many past girlfriends, estranged parents & siblings, isolation)

Someone who acts differently when they are in different situations or around different people.



HOW DO I KNOW I’M DATING THE RIGHT PERSON?

1. Your dating relationship should cause both of you to be more firmly planted in the local church, not less.

There is a term we've used called the The disappearing dater... It refers to someone who is serving and connected in church until they start dating, then poof. They disappear. They step down from leading, and take a break from serving and even become apathetic towards attending church.

2. Your dating relationship should cause both of you to move in the direction of God's purpose for your life.

Don't let the wrong person in... giving them permission to rob you of your purpose and dream. And in the same way, the person you're dating shouldn't give up their God dreams in order to pursue you.

3. The person you are dating should appreciate you for who you are and not attempt to change you...

In the same way, You should not attempt to change or fix someone you are dating.. this is not either of your roles. True change and positive transformation comes only through Christ....not through manipulation or outward change.

3. Your dating relationship should help you live a life of purity and a life above reproach.

If someone you date puts you in compromising situations, causes you to stumble or puts pressure on you... Break up with them. Your relationship with God is always far more important than maintaining a dating relationship.

"Whatever you do... do it for the glory of God."

1 CORINTH 10:31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is dating? How would you define a dating relationship?
2. Based on what we've discussed, do you feel like you are ready to date? Why or why not?
3. What is your next step when it comes to changing the way you approach dating relationships?

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON THREE

SUCCESSFULLY SINGLENESS

INTRO

I saw an article titled: “Nothing ruins your 20s more than thinking you should have your life together by now.” Many people would say this: “By this time in my life... I thought I’d...” Have career path set, steady relationship, found the one, have place to live, my degree in, more friends, savings.

▶ WATCH**LESSON THREE SUCCESSFULLY SINGLENESS****CREW DISCUSSION****COMPARISON TRAP**

We compare then we determine how we are doing in life, by how we stack up to the other people we know. Most of the time we compare and we focus on what we lack that other people have. “If I just had what they had, If my life more like theirs, then I’d be happy, content, then that would be enough.”

If Comparison isn’t bad enough....We live in a society that perpetuates and magnifies that feeling. Instagram: We see people getting engaged, married, traveling, kids, career, get in shape, posting fun experiences. This often leaves us wanting what someone else has.

So what is the answer to all this?

What is the solution to be successful in every season of life?

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

PHIL 4:11-13

STARTING IN THE RIGHT PLACE

In order to become the healthy person God wants us & Created us to be, we need to start in the right place. This begins in our heart and in our mind...The key here is changing our focus from what I lack to what I have. It is possible to rewire how we think, speak, what we post... away from (what am I missing) to (what do I have). This is a major shift in thinking that begins in our heart (our spirit) then flows out into other areas of our life.

This is especially important for people who are single and feel like they are missing something. Before you begin looking to date: You need to be content with who God made you and the season you are in. God wants you to be healthy in every season: Single, dating, engaged, married, children.

I know what it is to be single, and I know what it is to date... and I am content in whatever circumstances. I have learned the secret of being content no matter my relationship status...and that secret is that I don't find joy, purpose and identity in another person... I find it in christ.

PHIL 4:11-13 (PARAPHRASE)

Knowing your true God-Given Identity is the foundation for a healthy life & healthy relationships. So often people try to find their identity or contentment or happiness in someone else... They complete me. Someone you date or even get married to was never intended to complete you... that is not their role.

Start with your own identity first: Search out answers to the question (Who am I) from a biblical perspective. If you can't answer that or don't know...my best advice is: don't date & don't get married, until you get that right first. Remember, a healthy, lasting relationship begins with a healthy you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What area of comparison or lack is the biggest struggle for you?*
- 2. What are some positive declarations you can make in your life about what you have?*
- 3. What does it look like to walk in your God-given identity in everyday life?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON FOUR

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

INTRO

Talking about the subject of sex generally makes most people feel uncomfortable. The reason this awkwardness, discomfort and shame are connected to sex is because of what Sex has become. We live in a world that has a very twisted and backwards view of sex that is counter to Gods view. Sex has become about pleasure, objectification, selfishness and temporary pleasure...It goes against Gods design. The Truth is, God created Sex and created it as something to celebrate...not hide from or be ashamed of. As christians, we need to get back to and realigned with a biblical view of sex.

▶ WATCH**LESSON FOUR LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX****CREW DISCUSSION****WHY DID GOD CREATE SEX?**

God created sex to be within marriage for the purpose of enjoyment, intimacy and procreation. God commanded those who followed him to be fruitful, multiply, spread out and take dominion over the earth. Sex would be a major part of the connection and growth of a family and family would be the building block of community.

Think about this logically: What would happen if a women could reproduce and have children without a man? The answer is that there would be many more children growing up without having both a mother and father. So by creating sex within marriage so that it takes two to create a child... God also knew that it takes 2 to raise a child.

SET ON GOD

We have been created to live with our eyes, our minds and our hearts set on God. But so often in our society today, people become infatuated by lust, by fleshly desires and impure thinking.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

ROMANS 8:5-8

This is a huge question to really be honest about: Is sex consuming your thinking? whatever the situation...it isn't what you were created for...we were created to pursue God, not sex.

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23

If you have made mistakes in the past and have gone too far sexually...we're not condemning you. There is forgiveness of sin and wrongdoing. God is concerned with what you choose to do now that you know. While condemnation keeps you stuck... conviction helps you to move. If you are convicted...Let that prompt you to act...to live this day forward in purity and obedience.

HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?

If our goal is to go as far as we can in before I need to repent...we are setting ourselves up for failure. For a Christian, a better question is "how can I keep my heart & thoughts pure & honoring to God?". And better still is the Christian who wonders, "How can I protect the purity of the person I am dating?".

This is a huge part of healthy dating. Not only thinking about yourself but also about the other person. How can you help them to stay pure and obedient to God? What are boundaries that you can put in place to not only help you, but also help them as well?

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice. 9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

PSALMS 51:7-10

This is really what our desire should be as well. Create a clean heart in me God. A lot of these things we've talked about begin in the heart....then they move into our thoughts and actions.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 COR 10:5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you answer this question: Why did God create sex?
2. What worldly view of sex do you think is the most destructive?
3. In light of what has been discussed, What is your own next step in this area?

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON FIVE

FINDING THE ONE

INTRO

I grew up watching lots of animated Disney movies. Watching these types of movies over and over as we grow up produces a certain Disney Mindset about love. And in this Disney Culture, People ask: “Where is my fairytale, my prince, princess... the one?” And because of this Disney Mindset, our expectations about what dating and marriage even are are very off.

▶ WATCH**LESSON FIVE FINDING THE ONE****CREW DISCUSSION****CULTURAL VS BIBLICAL**

1. Although the idea of a soulmate sounds spiritual, it is not a biblical idea... it's actually pagan.

Comes from Greek philosophy (Plato) who taught Man and Women were made in one body, but separated by the Gods. Then man & women are destined to scour the earth to find their one perfect match (mate) meant to complete them. This is where we get phrases like “My other half” or “my better half” or “you complete me”.

2. The idea of a soulmate or “The One” reinforces the belief that you need another person to complete you.

It sounds Romantic, but the truth is: You were not created as half a person, You are whole in Christ. You are not lacking anything as long as you are in Christ... no matter if you are single, dating, engaged or married. You do not need another person to complete you, fulfill you or fix you. You were only meant to be dependent on Christ.

3. This way of thinking is a horrible and honestly depressing way to look at life itself.

For people who think there is only one...What about Widowers? Does that mean that there is no one else? And if someone married someone else's "One" then the whole world has been upset because of this mistake. This mindset takes the authority out of Gods hands and into the hands of fate or chance.

4. This way of thinking reinforces the idea that love is a feeling...and flaws mean its time to move on.

We think someone is the one and our soulmate because they are amazing make us feel a certain way. But what happens when We don't feel the same way...Or when we find a flaw in them.

The mentality of "The one" says you need to find the perfect match. In a Christian worldview, we believe that God brings people into your life. But ultimately love is a choice. You choose to make that person the one for you through marriage and they choose you. Marriage isn't about finding someone totally compatible as it is about choosing to love & commit to someone despite the differences.

This doesn't mean that we don't use Godly discernment and wisdom in looking at peoples qualities. But we also don't hold people to a standard that is impossible then use that as an excuse to leave them.

5. This way of thinking is dangerous because it produces doubt and regret in people that are already married.

"The One" is the person who you say "I Do" too. You are choosing to love that person. They are choosing you. Genesis even talks about how two whole people become one, with God... this is a picture of the trinity. The search ends at the altar... once your say I Do... that person is the one for the rest of your life.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I AM READY TO GET MARRIED?

Many people use physical markers or feelings to determine if they are ready or when they will be ready. So...When I finish school, once I get this job, once I save this amount. Once I feel a certain way you will feel ready. Don't use emotions or benchmarks as an excuse or trigger.

A better way to look at it is from the spiritual sense. Am I spiritually in a good place, healthy, planted, growing? Would I depend on someone else for things only God can truly provide?

FOCUS ON SEEKING GOD FIRST

You should never focus on seeking a spouse...Focus on seeking after God. Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else will be added unto you. Run after God and look for someone who is running alongside you with the same passion. That's the right person for you: someone who together you can do more for Gods kingdom than you could separately.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Based on todays episode, why is a Disney mentality about finding love a potentially dangerous thing?*
- 2. What is something in your own thinking that needs to change based on todays lesson?*
- 3. What does this look like to switch from using physical to spiritual markers when it comes to timing for marriage?*

CLOSING PRAYER



LESSON SIX

RELATIONSHIP PANEL

FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Is it okay to pursue someone I am interested in dating and what is the best way to go about that?
2. How long should I wait after a failed dating relationship before I try again?
3. I feel like I need to break up with the person I am dating. What is best way to do that and still remain friends since we go to the same church?
4. How do I deal with being attracted to someone who is not interested in me?
5. Do you think God wants everyone to find someone and get married or are some people meant to stay single their entire life?

▶ WATCH

LESSON SIX RELATIONSHIP PANEL

CREW DISCUSSION