

Dating in a *Dangerous World*



Purpose of Booklets

These are **Short Starter** Studies on **Sensitive** Subjects that **Stir & Stimulate** you toward **Biblical, Practical** Information that show that **Jesus has Great Answers** to some of life's **Hardest Questions**.

At www.FamilyBibleStudies.TIPS & the Family Bible Study App each booklet is a free download along with a short podcast explaining each booklet.

The website and App also has:

***Ten Terrific Tips to make
Family Bible Studies
Everyone's FAVORITE time of the week!***

The website and App also give lists of different **Categories** for the booklets as well as ways to use the booklets in:

1. Bringing **Friends to Christ**
2. As a Resource for **Pastor's Sermons**
3. **Small Group** Bible studies in a **Church**
4. As a **Resource** for Christian **Counselors**
5. Bible studies with **Friends** or **Co-workers**
6. For your own **Personal Growth & Bible Study**
7. Christian **Business Owners** to serve their **Customers** or **Employees**

What if I Don't Agree with What I Read?

There is always a good chance that I am wrong or that I have poorly communicated. I always encourage each person to research on your own. It may be that your research helps me and others to find God's heart more clearly.

We all seek His truth by the two Bible measures of:

1. what is **clear** and **consistent** in **God's Word** and
2. what bears the **Fruit of Jesus** in the lives of those who follow that application.

In heaven, all of God's purposes in God's Word will be clear and our actions will be aligned with God's Word. I constantly ask myself, what will we **act** like and **believe** when we are in **heaven**. This is my goal in these booklets.

"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

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Chap. 1

The Reason for Dating – To Learn!**God loves to walk WITH us as we grow and learn**

We have a goal! We have something we are asking God to add to our lives. Our goal is laser FOCUSED!

“Jesus - Please help me find a mate!”

We really want Jesus to give us the quickest answer in the shortest time possible. When we do NOT get a quick answer, we can become very discouraged. Wrong expectations can be EXHAUSTING.

What is God’s plan?

God’s plan is always to walk **WITH** us and to mold and shape us into the image of Jesus. While walking with us, Jesus has so many things he wants to **teach** us.

Here are 50 major things I need to know about **YOU** before moving toward marriage with you.

1. What are your **communication** habits in **comfort**?
2. What are your communication habits in **disagreements**?
3. What are your habits of being **on time** or **late**?
4. What are your habits of keeping a **clean** home?
5. What are your **Bible** reading habits?
6. What are your habits of serving in **Church**?
7. How real and rich is your **relationship** with **Jesus**?
8. How **often** are you **thankful**?
9. What are your **work** habits?
10. How much do you **smile** and **laugh**?
11. How well do you **budget** and **save** money?
12. How much are you a **planner** or **impulsive**?
13. How much **influence** should **in-laws** have in our decisions?
14. How much do you **worry** about the future?
15. How much do you **complain**?
16. How often do you want to **move**?
17. How much **affirmation** do you think **children** need?
18. What is your **history** related to **drugs** and **porn**?
19. Do you **need** & **give** daily affirmation?
20. How would you **correct** children?
21. Do you get **emotionally involved** over **politics**?
22. What are your **attitudes** toward **alcohol**?

If you will **take the time** to read **ALL 50** questions **OUT LOUD** you will be **completely convinced** of the 3 comments below

I don't know **Which** of these are **Most Important** to **ME.**

I don't know what my **OWN** **Answers** would be to these questions.

I don't know **HOW** to find out the **Answers** to these questions.

23. How much time do you spend on **screens**?
24. How do you interact with the **opposite sex** when I am **not around**?
25. How **hard** is it for you to **admit** you are **wrong**?
26. How do you **greet** me after **years** of **marriage**?
27. How **often** do you get **angry**?
28. How good are you at **listening**?
29. How much do you battle **anxiety**?
30. How much do you hold a **grudge**?
31. How important is **fitness** to you?
32. Do you **enjoy** taking **risks** or **crave safety**?
33. Do you **try too hard** to help people who **don't want to change**?
34. Do you **listen** well?
35. Do you **encourage** often?
36. Are you **healed** from **past broken** relationships?
37. How quickly do you **give up** on projects or people?
38. How important is **warm touching** to you?
39. How good are you at seeing your own **wrong motives**?
40. How often are you **sarcastic**?
41. What is your **process** for making **decisions**?
42. How **easily offended** are you?
43. How much do you want to **change** and **grow**?
44. How **respectful** are you toward **authority**?
45. How much **confidence** do you have in your life?
46. How **perceptive** are you of people's emotions?
47. How **well liked** are you at your **job**?
48. How is your overall physical **health**?
49. What was the **health** of your **parents relationships**?
50. **Why** do you want to get **married**?

I don't know...

- I don't know **Which** of these are **Most Important** to **ME**.
- I don't know what my **OWN** Answers would be to these questions.
- I don't know **HOW** to find out the **Answers** to these questions.

God uses “Failed” Relationships to Teach us!

From Abraham, through Moses, David, Peter, and Paul, God consistently teaches us our deepest insights into God's heart through our failures.

With every person who wants to date to find a marriage partner, I ask them if they are **PLANNING** on multiple **FAILED** relationships?

- You would be **SHOCKED** to see how almost everyone who is **NEW** to Dating give the **WRONG** answer.
- Those who have been dating for an **extended time** almost always give the **CORRECT** answer.

Failed relationships are how Jesus teaches us to ask and answer the hard questions.



Take a Step Back – What is God's Purpose for Dating?

God's purpose in dating is because God has so much that he wants to **TEACH** us about relationships.

No One Gets There Quickly

People and relationships are the most complex subject. There are no shortcuts to answer these questions.



Chap. 2

Two Boundaries

Knowing in advance that:

1. there is **so much** to **learn** and that
2. we can **EXPECT** multiple **Failed** relationships until we **GROW** into the place where we are ready to find God's mate for us,

there are two boundaries that enable us to move forward after each failed relationship.

1. We will never be alone in a private place!

Please read the booklet,

“Sex Outside of Marriage – Why is it So Wrong?

Sex outside of marriage:

- Destroys your hope of heaven,
- Kills your ability to trust that person,
- Sends you Backwards emotionally,
- & Creates soul ties with ungodly people.

The Bible is fiercely clear that NO ONE can resist temptation. We are commanded to **FLEE** temptation.

The first boundary allows us move forward with more wisdom and insight after each relationship and with no real damage to our souls.

Many people have a deep desire to be touched and held. The fun part is that you can cuddle when sitting on a public park bench while feeling completely safe sexually.

2. We will be together in church every Sunday!

Faithfulness in church is a top 3 factor in being able to trust someone. Church is the one place we go where it is *“Not About Me!”*

Our only reasons for going to church faithfully is to worship Jesus and to serve others together that we all might become more like Jesus.

By establishing these boundaries up front, you shorten the process of being prepared by Jesus to be ready for marriage.

Two Overreactions by Parents

Both extremes cause massive damage

1. Overreaction # 1 - Over Controlling Parents

- Our job is **NOT** to make decisions **FOR** our kids.
- Our job is to make decisions **WITH** our kids!

When my kids were 5 years old, I told them that I would **NOT** make decisions **FOR** them. I would make decisions **WITH** them. We had hundreds of wonderful discussions. In every case, we all agreed that

“Truth Rules”.

- We all listened and gave validity to each person's perspective.
- We learned to constantly define and RE-define our goals as we gained clarity.
- We all learned to admit when we were wrong and when others had a perspective we did not see.

Both of my children are now very successful adults in their careers, marriages and parenting. They both have **FANTASTIC** decision making skills.

Sadly, I have seen many sincere Christian parents who have done great damage to their children. They see dating as a negative distraction. They force their children to avoid all dating. These sincere parents don't realize that they unknowingly withholding from their children four important opportunities.

1. They miss this opportunity for their children to **learn to make decisions** in a healthy team environment.
2. They miss this opportunity for their children to **hear** from **Jesus** for **themselves**.
As a side bar, the Bible is clear that one of our main ways to find Jesus' will in our lives is through a multitude of counselors. That team dialogue is supposed to be taught by Parents to their children.
3. They miss this opportunity for their children to learn the relational lessons that can **only** be **learned** through the **trial** and **error** of dating.
4. They miss this opportunity for their children to **learn** how to **lead** a **team** by watching their parents make wise decisions **WITH** their children.

Sadly, a huge portion of these over-controlled teens and young adults make terrible choices in marriage partners.

- They are often **angry** at the **lack of humility** in their over controlling parents causing a **rebound effect**.
- They are very aware that their parents **thought** very **low** of them and would not give their perspective any value.
- They have **not** learned the **relational lessons** about themselves that can only be learned from dating.
- They are also very **stunted** in their **ability** to make **wise decisions** since that option was removed from them.

2. Overreaction # 2 - Overly Passive Parents

It is surprising that some parents make church optional, make prayer and Bible study optional and permit their children to make their dating decisions with no Biblical boundaries. These children wind up sexually active and far from God.

What are Biblical Non-Negotiable Core Family Values?

Making team decisions does not remove the need for non-negotiable core values in a home dedicated to Christ.

The difference with requiring our children to go to church, pray and have family Bible study is that these are clear strong Bible directives.

Walking in sexual purity is also a clear Bible command.

In these strong Bible areas, it is important for parents to establish the core non-negotiable values of their family.

Dating or not dating is NOT a clear Bible directive. When we exert strong non-negotiable stances that are outside of the Bible, we lose God's blessing in that area.

The Touching Talk!

Besides the major boundary of never being alone in a private place, I specifically recommend that every parent have the "*Touching Talk*" with their kids. That talk is: "*All touching will be above the shoulders and below the knees!*" Everything else is reserved for the wedding night.

When a young man gets "*Handsy*" and starts touching a girls stomach, upper thigh, etc. it greatly stirs hormones and lowers trust.

Big Positives & Insights for Parents

Advantages when they want to Date in High School

Many parents tell their children that they should not date in High School. These parents are missing some **HUGE Advantages!**

Patience about Marriage!

High School students know that they are not ready for marriage. This takes a lot of pressure off of the young couple. They do not feel pushed toward marriage.

This allows them to learn the lessons of dating. They learn to find their own soul strengths, their own soul weaknesses. They grow greatly in their relational wisdom with each new relationship as long as they continue in sexual purity.

Leverage for Expected Maturity

A teen who wants to date in high school is a GOLD MINE for parents. It is so easy for the parent to make it clear that dating is a REWARD for MATURITY! You explain to your teen that maturity includes:

- i. Being a consistent **Blessing** to your parents and siblings,
- ii. **Fully Understanding** & supporting from your heart:
 - 1. *Never Alone in a Private Place*
 - 2. *Touching Talk*
 - 3. *In Church Together every Sunday*
 - 4. *Learn & Grow from each Failed Relationship*
- iii. Being very **Alive** in your **Walk** with **Jesus** including:
 - 1. *Great attitude in Family Bible Studies*
 - 2. *Faithful in worship, personal Bible time and prayer*
 - 3. *Faithful in serving in our church*
 - 4. *Passionate to bring others to Jesus*

What an OPPORTUNITY! We all respond well to rewards. When you make dating a reward for maturity, you will see great growth.

Your kids seek your input more often.

When you support teenage dating, you will find that your teens are MUCH MORE eager to seek your input the younger they are.

These opportunities for a parent to talk with their young adult about their dating relationships are precious privileges for every parent.

Family Fun!

Once boundaries are established and this family has learned to make wise godly decisions together, then this family becomes a fantastic, top choice, **safe, fun** place for the dating couple to hang out.

Things like **studying** together at the family home or playing family **games** becomes delightful activities for this young couple. Consistently having the dating couple as a part of **family meals** becomes normal. This dating couple becomes an extension of your family.

This also saves the young couple a lot of money.

By interacting with the entire family, the person dating your child gets to interact with **every member** of the family. You learn a lot more about the person you are dating when you see them interact with your parents and siblings. They also learn a lot more about your teen.

It is so important for family to be a fun safe place.

Your kids are NOT you!

As parents you may have had some terrible dating experiences that scarred and scared you. You may have waited patiently to date until your mid-20s.

Your kids are not you! Please don't base your parenting on your own experiences. Please use Biblical wisdom that applies to all young adults.

You give your kids the option to choose to “Not Date”.

Providing ways for your teen to date, allows them to decide to “Not Date”. Many people take “Pauses” from dating. That is another part of the maturity growth development.

Parents who require “Just Friends” over Dating

WHY is it better to **Force** your teen and the person with whom they are interested to **PRETEND** to just call themselves friends when they are obviously attracted to each other. Why is that an advantage?

- It forces kids to operate in **deception** and **denial**.
- It communicates that you do **NOT Trust** them.
- It **removes** great **opportunities** to discuss relational dynamics.

Chap. 5

What about Dating for Older Adults

Build a Team

Dating is so much harder when you are older. When you desire to date to find a godly mate, I always recommend that you build a team within your local church of some wise, godly healthy souls who love and support you.

I have 5 recommendations for each team.

1. The team agrees to the boundaries & expectations listed in this booklet or something similar.
2. The person who wants to date sets realistic expectations that it may take 2-5 years and they may cycle through 3-5 failed relationships in that process.
3. During this season, the person who wants to date will communicate with their team regularly, usually by email about how they are doing.
4. The team will support this person eagerly through prayer, encouragement and by LOOKING for possible quality dating possibilities for this person.
5. If the person who wants to date uses online Christian dating websites, they will have strong filters like the one below.

About Me

I am a Christian 365 days a year 24 hours a day. I am financially secure with a great job. I am looking for a life partner, a man that is a godly man and lives as a Christian all the time not just on Sunday.

A man who also believes that sex should be a sacred thing between man and wife not anybody and everybody.

My interests are varied and I am a go with the flow kind of person. I love to learn new things and am willing to investigate your interests. I asked my friends to describe my personality for me and they gave me the following words: *Kind, Fun, Encouraging, Positive, Appreciative*.

I long to be a dream come true for a Godly man who would be my dream come true.

Many adults also use this booklet and the “*Sex outside of Marriage – why is it so Wrong*” booklet when meeting a potential date.

We are praying that the Lord uses the dating process to grow you and to help you find the mate that Jesus has for you.

We also have 100+ booklet studies that are currently or soon available.

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