

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



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Welcome!

Series: First Comes Love

Today's Message: Out Dating

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Loving God, we thank you that your love for us knows no end. You love us in our good times and our bad times, our high moments, and our low moments. Give us the wisdom, discernment, and courage to make good relational choices all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus who demonstrated His love for us on the cross of Calvary, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What do you think are the three most important things when you're dating somebody? Why?

INTRODUCTION: Dating is complicated. It feels like a game where everyone seems to know the rules except you. Truth is, there are no rules—but there are things you can do to prepare for + improve your dating relationships. Because, if taken seriously, dating can set the stage for sharing life with someone you love...and growing in your relationship with God as you go.

BIBLE STUDY: Read Song of Solomon 2:1-7 (Message)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. Pastor Watson talked about a season of preparation. How important do you think it is to prepare yourself in life? For relationships? What did he suggest we do during our season of preparation?
3. Have you ever been infatuated with someone? What was the outcome of your infatuation? Did it live up to your expectations? Pastor Watson taught that there's a difference between attraction and attachment, do you agree? Why or why not?
4. In the message, Pastor Watson taught that there are five levels of dating: #1: Dating for Something to Do, #2: Dating because it's YOU! #3: Dating with the future in view, #4: Dating and I'm engaged to you, #5: Dating after I say, "I Do." Do you agree that there are levels to dating? Why or why not? Pick one of the levels and share your experience positive or negative.
5. Do you have a TRUTH TRIANGLE that aligns your THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, and BEHAVIOR? How challenging is it for you to maintain alignment? What do you do to develop alignment?

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6. Give your opinion on Pastor Watson's *Wisdom for Dating*: Set your standards up front. Keep four feet on the floor. Keep everything buttoned, zipped, latched, twisted, and tied. Build fences and don't climb over them.

CHALLENGE: What will you do to build healthy intimacy with the people you're close to? What will you do to be truly transparent? What will you do this week to get and stay close to Jesus?

SERVE: Pray over Song of Solomon 2 this week. **Praise** God for the value God sees you and how God invests in you every single day. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give Him praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)