

## Dates

Gregg Brenes

When you follow Jesus, He will lead you to a single command.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

If you don't want a relationship like the majority of relationships, don't date like the majority of daters.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 1 Cor. 13:11

To be prepared for the future, you have to prepare.

To protect your future, keep dating connected with marriage.

## Insights for Dating...

## 1) Date prayerfully. (Genesis 24; 1 Peter 5:7)

Then he prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham." ... "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives." Genesis 24:12, 27

- Look to date someone who can keep pace with you.

## 2) Date with clarity.

- Guys, ask a girl out on a date.
- Ladies, agree to a date.

## 3) Date graciously. (Isaiah 43:1)

- Don't ever mistreat anyone.
- Don't allow yourself to be mistreated.

## 4) Date with purity. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

- Don't do things that will lead you to lie about your story.

## 5) Date in community. (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 24:6)

## Let's Connect

- If you could use one word to describe dating in today's culture, what would it be?

## Let's Talk About It

Many times, we learn from our mistakes in the areas that matter least, but we repeat our mistakes in the areas that matter most. Relationships are one of those areas. How can we ensure that next time won't be like the last time? If you don't want a relationship like the majority of relationships, don't date like the majority of daters.

John 15:12; 1 Cor. 13:11; Genesis 24:2-27; 1 Peter 5:7; Rom. 8:28; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Proverbs 11:14, 24:6

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Genesis 24:2-7, 12. **[Singles]** What does "dating prayerfully" look like? **[Marrieds]** Why is it important to continue to date your spouse? Do you pray with your spouse? Do you pray for your spouse?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. In relationships, why is it difficult to correct many of our past patterns of behavior? What's your initial reaction to the idea that "time is your friend"? Do you agree? Disagree?
- Look over and discuss the insights for dating Pastor Gregg shared. How can you apply these insights if you're single...married?
  - Do you need clarity in your relationship?
  - Are you being mistreated or are you mistreating someone (verbally, emotionally, physically)?
  - If a relative was being treated as you're being treated, would you be upset?
  - You are writing your story. What story do you want to tell?

## Take a Step

- It's easy to bend, blend or pretend to get in or stay in a relationship. But we need to ask ourselves, "Am I losing myself to do so"? If so, what step do you need to take?
- **SOAP reading: Day 1:** Ezekiel 33-35, Revelation 18; **Day 2:** Ezekiel 36-37, Psalm 110, Revelation 19; **Day 3:** Ezekiel 38-39, Psalm 145, Revelation 20; **Day 4:** Ezekiel 40-41, Psalm 128, Revelation 21; **Day 5:** Ezekiel 42-44, Revelation 22; **Day 6:** Ezekiel 45-46, Luke 1; **Day 7:** Daniel 5-6, Luke 2

## Here's My Prayer

- Lord, in my relationships, teach me and lead me to go about them in a way that honors you and the other person. As I approach dating prayerfully, give me clarity and courage to make wise decisions.