

The Refuge
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Foundations
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Dating

The World

1. What is dating?

- “Dating is prearrangement, with the promise of something more.” That is what John Cusack says in the infamous “Say Anything.” That is what a date is, according to the 80’s.
- Ask the kids what dating is. What do they think it is? Is dating the same as “going out?” If not, what is the difference?
- See if all the kids agree on their definition of dating.

2. How old are kids when they start dating?

- Ask them what they think?
- Ask them when kids are too young to date?
- Ask them when kids actually start dating vs. when they should start dating.
- Do they have an age from their parents when they can start dating? Ask them if their parents have given them a rule.

3. What is the point of dating?

- Ask the kids what they think about this. This is not the time for us to teach them what is true, but instead to listen to what they think.
- Why do kids date? What is considered a good relationship vs. a bad relationship? Ask them.
- Why do kids date? A very direct and important question. Get some answers on this one.

The Word

4. Read I Kings 11:1-4. What does the Bible say about whom we should date?

- NOTE: I wrote the wrong verse down. It is I Kings 11:1-4, not 2 Kings.
- You should not date girls who have different beliefs than you.
- Solomon loved many strange women. He loved girls who had different gods than him, and they pulled him away from God.

5. Read II Corinthians 6:14-16. What does God say about who we should date?

- In this passage, we are told not to date unbelievers.
- We are not to date people who are unbelievers.
- But being unequally yoked goes further than that. This verse also says that we shouldn’t give our hearts to believers that are less spiritual than we are.
- If someone says they are a believer, but does not live a Christian life, and you are. Then you would be unequally yoked.

6. Read Song of Solomon 2:7. What is Solomon's advice about love?
- Solomon's bride gives this advice, that "you should not awaken love before its time."
 - You should not awaken love before its time.
 - You should not get into a relationship if you are not ready.

The Way

Some wisdom about dating...

1. Obey your parents!
 - Whatever your parents rules are, follow them.
 - If you do not know what they expect, ask them.
 - One of the greatest ways you honor God is by honoring your parents.
2. Choose wisely who you like.
 - You do get to choose who you crush out on.
 - Don't crush out on boys/girls who don't love Jesus.
 - God gives a lot of qualities we should look for. Value those things, not hair or fashion.
 - Don't be boy/girl crazy. Don't waste the energy going nuts all the time.
3. Choose wisely who you date.
 - Liking someone is one thing. Dating them is totally another. Don't just date every boy you like.
 - Pray about what God would want from you. If it is against your parents' rules, then you don't even need to pray about it, because you already know God's will.
 - Seek counsel. Ask your godly friends what they think. Ask your youth leaders/youth pastor. Seek counsel from people who will tell you truth, not just what you want to hear.
4. Choose wisely when you start.
 - The earlier you start dating, the more likely you are going to do something really dumb.
 - Choose wisely when you are going to start dating.
 - My wife (Angie) committed in her heart not to date in all of high school. It freed her to grow in God and be a friend to many that needed Jesus.