

# LOVE AND DATING

## Week 2 - Who's Mr./Mrs. Right?

### THE MAIN POINT

Our culture presents a picture that if we could just find the "right person," everything will be good in life and we'll get our happily ever after. This plays out in the way our students perceive and pursue dating relationships. However, there is no basis in Scripture for this idea. The Bible does have a lot to say about becoming the right person. This small group continues the discussion on dating by challenging students to look inward instead of outward when it comes to the right type of person to be in a relationship with.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- "Heads Up" app. and smartphone

### GETTING STARTED

Welcome back! We're so glad you've decided to be a part of this group. Just a reminder, in a Campus Life small group, we follow these rules...

#### RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:

**Commitment** - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

**Confidentiality** - What is shared here stays here.

**Be honest or be silent** - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

**Respect** - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

## ACTIVITY

Split your group into two teams and play "heads up"—an app version of the game catch phrase where the team describes the word (without using the word) to the guesser. The guesser must guess the word on the screen of the phone above their head. First team to 5 points wins (or however long you'd like the game to go).

## GOING DEEPER

So this group is about dating. You're probably a part of this group for a reason. Maybe you've had some bad experiences. Maybe you just want to get some wisdom before you jump in to a relationship. Whatever the reason might be, dating advice is a lot like the fun game we just played. Lots of outside voices shouting sometimes contradictory advice at you while you try and guess what's actually correct. The difference is in dating when we get it wrong it hurts...bad.

Discuss:

- What is some really bad dating advice you've gotten or heard in the past? What makes that advice bad?

Wow that's pretty rough advice. Last week we talked about how dating is crazy complicated and can cause a lot of pain in life. We talked about how there's just a lot of really bad advice out there. We also talked about the "why" of dating. Lots of people are in relationships for the wrong reasons. We discussed how in this group, we're going to look at what God says about relationships. Why? Because if there is a God who created everything, that means He created relationships too. And if He created relationships, then He would know what's best about how to have a good one.

- As you've thought about the idea about God creating relationships over the last week, what comes to mind? Do you believe in God? If there is a God, is He trustworthy?

This week we're going to talk about the "Who" of dating. Who should you date? Everyone wants to find that special someone...that "Mr. or Mrs. Right." When you think you've found it, the feeling is amazing. Unfortunately, our feelings often cloud our judgment about a person, heartbreak hits down the road, and the relationship ends badly.

- Have you ever been there? Share if you feel comfortable.
- When/if you've dated someone, how did you decide to date that person? Was it feelings? Was it that they met a list of criteria you had?
- What do you think *should* be the criteria of someone you might date?

In movies and TV shows, we hear the message over and over that if we just find that right person, we will be ok. We hear them say things about their significant other like "you complete me," "I need you," "I can't live without you." The movie ends with an implied happily ever after. If only we could just find the right person, everything will be ok...

- Do you think that's true?
- Do you think there's a right person for everyone and you simply just need to find them? If so, how do you know if you've found the right one?

The truth is that it's actually really easy to become attracted to or feel a strong connection to someone. These feelings can be so strong, that it's easy to interpret them as meaning that this must be the right person. We think we've fallen in love. Andy Stanley writes:

*"Show me a couple who are attracted to each other and share that certain something, and I'll show you a couple convinced they are right for each other. So right that nothing could possibly go wrong. Right? Been there? We all have. But as I'm fond of saying, falling in love is easy; it requires a pulse. Staying in love requires more." \**

- When Andy Stanley says "Staying in love requires more," what does he mean?

Anyone can develop strong feelings for someone. Not everyone is capable of building on those feelings into a loving lasting relationship in the way that God teaches us to. This should give us some pause before diving into a relationship based on our feelings only. Remember last week we shared a Bible verse with you from the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is a book filled with a ton of wisdom about a lot of things we go through in life. That Bible verse says: "only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps. The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence." Proverbs 14:15-16

It can be easy to listen to what Hollywood tells us about how to do relationships and just "plunge

ahead with reckless confidence” when we develop feelings for someone. We’re challenging you to be prudent (another way to say wisely cautious) and carefully consider your steps. Sometimes feelings just aren’t trustworthy.

- What could be the danger of developing feelings for someone and diving into a relationship with them with “reckless confidence?”
- Do you have an example of a time where you trusted your own feelings and emotions and it got you into trouble/ended badly?

Sometimes people who find themselves in deep feelings with someone start ignoring red flags and potential signs that this isn’t good. They begin to neglect their friendships and even get angry when people lovingly point out very real problems.

- Have you ever seen this happen? Has it happened to you?

Another Proverb (12:15) says “Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.” It’s so easy to fall “in love” with someone, think it’s right, and just ignore anything that anyone else (including God) might say about it. I think we all want to be wise at some level. No one *wants* to be a fool. When the rubber meets the road, if we want to be wise, we need to be much more careful with our steps.

- What do you think it looks like to be careful with your steps in dating? Why is it important?
- What do you think are the most important things a person you’re hoping to date should have? (Character and personality wise, not physical)
- Are you that kind of person? What areas of your character do you think you need to work on in order to be “Mr./Mrs. Right?”

## TAKE AWAY

There are so many people whose hearts have been hurt badly because they dove headfirst into a relationship because of their strong feelings only for it to end in destruction. Maybe you’ve been there. You’ve had your trust broken, your dreams shattered, or your confidence betrayed. It hurts.

Our challenge for you is for you to instead be careful with your steps. Be eager to listen to strong advice from people who care about you—even if it’s hard to hear. Maybe it’d be good for you to find a caring adult leader to help give you wisdom.

We want to leave you with one last Proverb for you from the Bible... Remember we said that we're going to look to God for our advice, not just some goofy advice blog on the internet. This is what it says: ***"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."*** (Proverbs 4:23 NLT). Those of you who've experienced heartbreak know this to be true...it literally affects EVERY aspect of your life. That's why it's so important to be careful in our steps when we think we've fallen "in love" with someone. Write this verse down somewhere you will see it every day as a reminder.

## RESOURCES

-Quote is from [The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating](#) by Andy Stanley