

IT'S COMPLICATED
Wk 3/3: Guardrails
February 15 & 16, 2020

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize it's wiser to live with boundaries and accountability.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NLT;
James 5:16 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

Students often ask, "How far is too far for me to go when I date?" However, this is a dangerous question because they are really asking: "How much can I get away with without it being considered a sin?" What we hope students will walk away with is to ask themselves: "Is this wise for me to do?" For example, there is no Bible verse that directly says it's a sin to lie down together and watch TV on the couch when your parents aren't home – but is that really a wise thing to do? We want them to see those situations as temptations and choose to run from those temptations. Many of our students want to avoid sin. At the same time they don't want to miss out on legitimate fun. We want to get our students off living on that dangerous line and realize life is better in the safe zone. This kind of thinking, because it's not easily black and white, will stretch your students. Be patient with them as it's challenging them to grow in how they think.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Guardrails, like boundaries and accountability, protect us.

GET THEM TALKING

What are different boundaries parents can give their kids when it comes to dating?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 and answer the following questions:

1. In your own words, what is the meaning of these verses?
2. What do you think are some of the biggest temptations that middle school students face?

OBJECT LESSON

Take 3 similar Bibles and make a "highway" out of them for the car to drive on. Give each student a turn to push the car as far down the highway they can without falling off. Then have students hold more Bibles in place to make "guardrails." Now give students another turn to push their car down the highway. Ask the group, "Why was it easier the second time around?" Show your students the piece of paper with the danger and safe zones. Explain that they are the car, and the guardrails keep the car from falling off the cliff into the danger zone. The danger zone is where sin happens. Ask students to give examples of sins in the danger zone they should avoid and write them in. Then ask students to give you examples of boundaries to put in the safe zone and write them in. For example, your parents might not allow you to be in your room alone with your girlfriend/boyfriend.

READ JAMES 5:16 and answer the following questions:

3. In your own words, what is the meaning of this verse?
4. Who is one wise, godly person you can talk to when you need accountability?

NEXT STEP

This week, write down some boundaries you'd like to set in your current or future relationships. Ask a wise, older Christian to look over them and give you some advice. And pray over them, asking God for wisdom and to help you live them out.

PRAYER GUIDE

What prayer requests do we have?
Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 (NLT)

¹⁸Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

JAMES 5:16 (NLT)

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

**SAFE
ZONE**

**DANGER
ZONE**

GUARDRAILS PROTECT US