HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

HIM + HER
TEACHING GUIDE
WEEK 2

MAIN SCRIPTURES:
1 Peter 2:15-17
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

MAIN POINTS:
1. Guys and girls may be different, but we can still seek to understand and respect one another.
2. Respect God with your body.

JESUS CONNECTION:
We all were born slaves to sin but God sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue us from our sins and death.

THE WHAT

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-3 min)

ME

- Guys and girls are different.
- Share a personal story of a stereotypical misunderstanding between you and someone of the opposite gender (bonus points if your story has humor) OR Ask your audience to share different stereotypical differences between guys and girls & be ready to share some of your own. (For example: Guys are more physically wired; Girls are more emotionally driven. Guys fight with their fist, girls fight with their words. Girls speak a secret language guys can't understand. Girls overthink and guys underthink.)
- Guys and girls are different, and that can make understanding each other difficult. It can make dating complicated. We don't act, think, or react like each other. Which is why sometimes the world of dating can be a minefield.

WE

- Even though stereotypes aren't always right, we've all experienced a time where we saw or felt a difference between guys and girls.
- Did you know there actually are differences in the way guys and girls brains are structured and how they process information? Woman have bigger memory centers and more white matter, which connects the different parts of their brains more. Guys have more information-containing grey matter.
- You may have heard guys brains are like waffles, and they have a box for everything. Girls brains are like spaghetti, and everything is connected.
- The point is: we are different. Sometimes these differences can lead us to misunderstand each other, feeling frustrated or disrespected.

TRANSITION

- Even though we are different, we can still seek to understand and respect one another.
- Today we are going to look at 2 different Bible verses and how they center around this idea of guys, girls, dating, and RESPECT – how we can respect each other and God.
- **Important side note reminder: This series isn't an encouragement or pressure to date.** If you aren't dating, this lesson is still good for you because (1) we can seek to understand and respect each other outside of dating and (2) if you start dating in the future, you will have a great foundation of Biblical wisdom!

NOTES

SO WHAT

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (5-6 min)

GOD

1 PETER 2:15-17

- Let me start by giving a little Biblical background knowledge to this first verse because it talks about something you may find a little strange: it says we are God's slaves.
- You see the Bible says everyone on the planet is essentially a slave, and we have a choice between being slaves between 1 of 2 things:
  1. Sin or evil (or sometimes it's called our flesh)
  2. God or righteousness (or sometimes it's called the spirit)
- Romans 6 lays out a good picture of this, and shares how anyone who has not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior is a slave to sin/evil, but anyone who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior is a slave of God/righteousness.
- Peter is writing to Christians in the early church on how they can live their lives for God and he is giving them some instructions:
- READ 1 PETER 2:15-17. A couple things here:
  1. FIRST, WE ARE FREE. Those who believe in Jesus are set free. Ever done something and said you'll ask for forgiveness after? Some people approach their life with God this way, because they know God will forgive them. Which is the second point and JESUS CONNECTION:
  2. SECOND, WE ARE FORGIVEN. No matter who you are you were born a slave to sin but God sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue us from our sin and death; **When we believe in Jesus our sins are forgiven forever and unconditionally** buried with Jesus and they don't count against us anymore. **That kind of forgiveness brings freedom**. Forgiveness frees us from the weight of guilt and sin. We can mess up – we are free to sin – and God will forgive us not because we earn it, but because His forgiveness is unending.
  3. THIRD, WE HAVE A CHOICE. Not only do we have a choice to follow Jesus or not as our Savior – we have hundreds of choices a day as to whether we will walk in God's ways or sins ways. That battle rages all the time – we have a choice. And here Peter is encouraging us not to use our freedom as an excuse to sin or do evil.
  4. Lastly, there is a lot of good stuff in this small section of the Bible, but I want us to focus in on two words: RESPECT EVERYONE. Not respect those who look or act like you, who are popular, those who are older are in charge: respect everyone. Those who are different from you, those no one else respects, even people younger than you, and yes those who are different a different gender from you.

RESPECTING EACH OTHER WOULD SOLVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS.

- If we truly respected each other, no one would want to use another person for their own pleasure or gain.
- If we truly respected each other, guys would see every girl who walked by, posted a pic, or was in a video as someone to respect and honor – a sister in Christ.
- If girls respected guys, we wouldn't bad mouth them. We wouldn't say that "all guys are liars or out for one thing" because not ALL guys are like that – but ALL guys should be shown respect.
- And not only should we be respecting each other, we should be respecting ourselves.
- We've talked about our differences, but I want to land on something we have in common: God created each and every one of you and He designed you with the capability to share love on an extremely intimate level. This leads into our next Bible verse.

NOTES

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-5. A couple things here:

1. GOD DESIGNED BOUNDARIES AROUND SEX. If you are wondering, God's design for sexual intimacy is between a man and woman in marriage. Sexual immorality is anything sexually outside of those boundaries. And it can even include things like lust and pornography.
    - Genesis 2:24 "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."
2. GOD ISN'T AGAINST SEX, HE IS FOR IT. In fact, He tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply which means…have lots of sex. (Genesis 1:27-28)
    - It's when we take sex and sexual intimacy outside of God's design that it gets us in trouble. It can lead to a lot of pain.
3. RESPECTING GOD WITH YOUR BODY ISN'T FOR GOD'S GOOD, IT'S FOR YOURS.
    - Whether you follow God's boundaries for sex or cross the line, it isn't going to hurt God – it's going to hurt you. Maybe not at first, every temptation has a "hook" that seems to lure us in saying it has something good for us, but then later we are stuck with damaging consequences.
    - Sexual boundaries aren't about restrictions, they can actually bring MORE freedom in our lives by saving us from some of the damage of crossing lines we shouldn't.

TRANSITION

- If you have crossed the line already, it's not too late for you to jump on the right side of the fence. Remember, every time you confess your sin God is faithful to forgive you (1 John 1:9) and show you a way out of it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

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NOW WHAT

NOW that I know, HOW can I live this out? (2-3 min)

YOU

- Your parents may have set boundaries around your dating or use of technology and you know what – that is great! I know it doesn't feel great, but they are doing it to protect you.
- God has set boundaries for us on sexual purity because He wants to protect us. He wants what is best for us.
- That's all great – but none of that matters if you don't decide you want to follow those boundaries. The choice is yours.
- Have you already set your own boundaries around who you want to date and physical limits to showing love and intimacy?
- Have you already set your own boundaries around your use of technology or anything that leads you into sexual impurity?
- If not, are you willing to? I hope you can see the big picture, see how it benefits you, others, and your relationship with God, and that you chose to live lives that respect God and respect others.

WE

- Let's be a safe place for people to talk and share, be real, and not worry about someone gossiping about them afterwards: in other words what is said in small group, stays in small group.
- Let's talk together about these questions:
    - How do we respect each other when it comes to guys and girls?
    - And how do we respect God when it comes to our physical boundaries?

PRAY

- Close your time together in prayer.

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