



HIM + HER DISCUSSION 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.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to start, or grow, in using godly wisdom in who they pursue in dating relationships.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Let your students know: This series isn't an encouragement to date, it's an encouragement for students to use godly wisdom when they date. Some students in your group may not be dating yet, and that is ok! In fact, Paul says it's better to stay single (1 Corinthians 7:10) and our last week we are going to talk about not rushing – so if you aren't dating or don't feel ready yet – GREAT! This lesson is still good wisdom and discussion for you because chances are one day you will start dating and when you do – you'll be able to start on a great foundation of Biblical wisdom!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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

GET THEM TALKING

1. What are some differences, in general, that you've noticed between guys and girls?
2. What are common ways you think guys and girls commonly misunderstand or manipulate each other?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 Peter 2:15-17 and discuss the following questions:

1. God calls us to live in honor and respect for one another. What are ways guys can respect girls?
2. What are ways girls can respect guys?
3. What are ways we can respect people we are dating?
4. What are things that can make it hard to show respect to each other?
5. How can we overcome these roadblocks?

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-5 and discuss the following questions:

1. What things is this Scripture calling us to stay away from?
2. What things is it calling us to move towards?
3. Have you ever thought about setting boundaries around dating or other things that can lead you to give into temptation? If so, can you share some of those boundaries with us?
4. How can we respect God when it comes to our physical bodies?
5. What are some temptations that pop up in high school that can make it hard to live out respecting God with our bodies?
6. How can we overcome these roadblocks?
7. If someone were to admit they were struggling with sexual sin in our small group, do you think they'd feel loved or judged by us?
8. How can we be a small group that encourages each other to grow in our faith without shunning people when they sin?

NEXT STEPS

We've talked about two types of respect today. Respecting those of the opposite gender and respecting God with our bodies. Be honest with yourself, **which of these do you think is your biggest struggle right now?** **What is something you can do this week to show respect in that area?**

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2:15-17 NIV

¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NIV

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God."

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

We all need accountability. Your students may reach out to ask you to help keep them accountable on different aspects of their faith – this is awesome! That means they want to grow in their faith. On top of supporting your students, here are some steps you can encourage them to take:

5 Steps to Hold Yourself Accountable

1. Be Honest with yourself and God. We all have sinned, God knows this (Hebrews 4:13). We are honest and ask God for His forgiveness, God is always faithful to give it to us. And don't you just feel freer, lighter, happier when you are forgiven and not weighed down by secret sins?
2. Commit to God's ways. John 14:15 says, "If you love me, keep my commands." But I want to tell you something – this is a choice YOU are going to have to make and keep making. Your parents can't do it for you, even if they drive you to church or make you login online.
3. Invite others to keep you accountable. This may be the scariest step because who wants to share about their secrets and sins with others – and you took it! James 5:16 says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Are there other mature believers you can ask to be on your team? Not everyone is going to understand the choices and changes you are making, get some people on your team who you can support you.
4. Make a Plan. Set goals and boundaries to overcome temptation in place. Have a plan for how you will leave tempting situations – maybe even look into accountability software or asking others, like your parents, to help you keep certain boundaries.
5. Rinse and Repeat. We will all mess up and sin again, but remember God is a loving, forgiving Father cheering you on every step you take towards following Him.