

HIM + HER
STUDY 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.

@HopeHSM

1. READThe Bible

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (from your Bible or it's on the back).

2. OBSERVE

The Straight Facts

Who:	
Where:	
Why:	
How:	
What is Repetitive?	
Highlight it What is Contrast?	
Underline it	

3. INTERPRETWhat Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?

Both 1 Peter and 1 Thessalonians were letters written by early church leaders (Peter and Paul, respectively) to early churches to give them encouragement and instruction on how to grow closer to Jesus and live Christian lives. Though our culture is different from the early churches, many issues we face like greed, oversexualization, selfishness, etc. are the same struggles that flood our culture.

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

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What is this text's clearest meaning?

4. APPLY

Getting Personal

Scripture?	ts, or words in
you apply to	m this Scripture your life right
at is God sayi	• .

MAIN SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2:15-17 NIV

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

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

NOTES

DOODLES



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 informationcontaining 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:
 - 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.

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READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-5. A couple things here: **NOTES** 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). **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:
 - O How do we respect each other when it comes to guys and
 - And how do we respect God when it comes to our physical boundaries?

PRAY

Close your time together in prayer.



HIM + HER DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 2 —



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MAIN POINTS:

- 1. Guys and girls may be different, but we can still seek to understand God sent Jesus to die on the cross and respect one another.
 - **2.** Respect God with your body.

JESUS CONNECTION:

We all were born slaves to sin but 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?
- 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?
- How can we be a small group that encourages each other to grow in our faith without shunning people when they sin?

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.

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

- 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.