



REALationships

A SERIES ON DATING + THE BIBLE

WEEK 1 MAIN POINT

Just like all relationships, dating is meant to reflect Christlike love and respect.

MAIN BIBLE VERSE(S)

Philippians 2:1-5

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Christ-centered dating isn't selfish or about seeking its own way; it seeks to honor God and the other person. Today's message is about what it looks like to respect God and the person you're dating.

LEADER NOTE: This series is not about pressuring students to date or shaming past choices, but about helping them see God's heart for healthy, Christ-centered relationships.

HOOK / STARTING IN SCRIPTURE

- Revisit Philippians 2:1–5 from the previous week
- Highlight Christlike humility, selflessness, and putting others first
- Establish that Jesus models one way of living for all relationships

TENSION: DOES THIS APPLY TO DATING?

- Question the idea that some relationships are “different”
- Paul does not give different standards for different relationships
- Jesus models one consistent way of love in all situations
- Key idea: Feelings do not cancel Jesus' way of life

TRANSITION: SETTING UP THE SERIES

- Introduce REALationships as a series on applying biblical wisdom to dating
- Clarify that the series is not pressuring students to date
- Emphasize preparation over participation
- Key truth: Dating doesn't create new rules—it reveals what we believe about love

TENSION: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT DATING?

- Cultural dating messages emphasize self-focus and feelings
- Feelings become the authority instead of Scripture
- Students can date someone and still treat them selfishly
- Philippians 2 confronts selfish dating mindsets

APPLICATION: WHAT CHRIST-CENTERED DATING LOOKS LIKE

- Focus on motivation before behavior
- Key questions:
 - Why do I want to date?
 - What am I hoping to get from this person?

- Am I willing to put their good above my desires?
 - Christ-centered dating values:
 - respect over pressure
 - clarity over manipulation
 - honesty over games
 - boundaries over impulse
 - Key statement: The goal of dating isn't chemistry—it's character
-

PASTORAL CLARITY: GRACE & DIRECTION

- Not about pressure, shame, or perfection
 - Emphasize grace and growth
 - Jesus invites students to let His way shape this area of life
-

LAND THE POINT

- Dating reveals, not replaces, faith
 - If Jesus is Lord, He gets a say in dating
 - Christ-centered dating reflects Christlike love and respect
-