



WEEK 1 MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE(S)
Just like all relationships, dating is meant to reflect Christlike love and respect.	Philippians 2:1-5
<b>ABOUT THIS WEEK</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p><b>LEADER NOTE:</b> 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.</p>	

#### 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

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### **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

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### **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

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