



WEEK 3 MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE(S)
The best relationships challenge us and help us become more like Christ.	Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Students will understand that dating relationships are formative, not neutral, and will be challenged to pursue relationships that help them grow in wisdom, character, and Christlikeness rather than pulling them away from Jesus.

HOOK (Dating Is Directional)

- Lighthearted reflection on how people pick up habits, styles, and language from others
- Truth: We become like the people we spend time with
- Relationships shape us whether we realize it or not
- Key idea: Dating isn't neutral—it is directional
- Transition question: Is this relationship helping me become more like Jesus?

SCRIPTURE: THE BIBLE ON INFLUENCE

- Proverbs 27:17 – Relationships are meant to sharpen and shape us
- Growth often requires friction and intentionality
- Proverbs 13:20 – Walking with the wise leads to wisdom; influence is certain
- 1 Corinthians 15:33 – Bad company corrupts good character
- Key truth: Scripture never treats relationships as neutral

TENSION: CHEMISTRY VS. CHARACTER

- Dating decisions are often driven by attraction and chemistry
- Chemistry matters but cannot sustain a relationship
- Feelings are powerful but unreliable leaders
- When feelings become the authority, character becomes the casualty
- Scripture calls us to pursue wisdom, not emotion

TRUTH: WHO YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH MATTERS

- Quote from Jonathan Pokluda on changing playmates and playgrounds
- Who you spend time with and where you go shapes who you become
- This aligns with Proverbs and Corinthians
- Dating accelerates the direction you're already headed

NOTE ON DATING & FORMATION

- Dating is practice, not just participation
- Dating shapes communication, conflict, intimacy, and spiritual influence

- Christ-centered dating should:
 - strengthen faith
 - challenge character
 - promote Christlikeness
 - A relationship that pulls you away from Jesus is misdirection, not love
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APPLICATION: CHOOSING GROWTH-ORIENTED RELATIONSHIPS

- Evaluate relationships with honest questions:
 - Does this relationship help me follow Jesus more closely?
 - Does it encourage wisdom or excuse compromise?
 - Am I growing in Christlike character?
 - Healthy relationships are not always easy or perfect
 - Dating should never cost your walk with Jesus
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PASTORAL CLARITY

- Not about shame, perfection, or pretending
 - Growth takes time; wisdom forms through intentional choices
 - Jesus invites students to choose direction over drift
 - God cares deeply about where students are headed
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LAND THE POINT

- Proverbs: walk with the wise
 - Corinthians: bad company shapes character
 - Core truth: relationships form who we become
 - The best relationships help us become more like Christ
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