

relationships_002: how do you score in love?

How to judge if a relationship is good/healthy?

some words about last weeks topic:

Last week was supposed to help facilitate discussion about the differences between boys and girls in order to help ALL appreciate the opposite gender and grow to a deeper level of respect. It was not to make fun of, bash, speak negatively about or in generalities and prejudices of the opposite gender. If you feel that happened in your group we strongly recommend that you spend some time recapping last week's discussion. Christians are to respect ALL peoples because ALL are creations of God and ALL are redeemed by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If relationships are central to Christian living then we must always be growing in understanding, tolerance and respect for people who are different than us this includes the opposite gender. Women are different and Christian men need to grow to appreciate women. Men are different and Christian women must grow to appreciate men. If we don't begin to have these discussions with our youth now they will grow up with only generalities, prejudices and derogatory jokes to help them relate to the opposite gender. Lastly if there is not a basic level of understanding and respect, our next discussions will be much more difficult. We urge you to pray over this and take the time to recap with your group to ensure that we all are walking a positive path of understanding, and **respect**.

adult primer:

How does a person know whether they are in love or whether someone really loves them? How do you know if a friend is a good friend? What is the true test of a friendship? What is the true test of love? It can be difficult for students to find an example of healthy friendships and even harder to find real-life examples of loving, committed relationship, examples of true love / true friendship. Most of the information students get about love may come from the media – movies, TV, magazines, music – where love seems to be defined as romance, passion, and sexuality. And friendship is defined by what you can get from the relationship. With over dramatized celebrity romances starting-up and splitting-up saturating every form of media. Watch any program on MTV it is a perfect example of anti-health in relationship and deterioration of self-esteem.

Love should be at the core of any relationship that a Christian is in. This holds true for friendships as well as romantic relationships, where love is more than warm, gushy feelings, and more than what a person/friend can/will do for me, but love that is expressed in kindness and caring, respect, servant-hood and compassion. (Last weeks discussion was to help lay this foundation.)

As you prepare read 1 Cor. 13:4-7 and think of your friendships and your marriage/romantic relationship if you aren't married.

nights schedule:

time	group	event
6pm	ms	dinner
	hs	fellowship
6:30	ms	fellowship
	hs	dinner
7pm	total gathering	
7:10	off to grade groups	
8pm	praise time & closing teaching	

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start with some time for group Life:

How are you? How are things? How was your first week back to spring break?

High Low, celebrate what is happening in the lives of your students and the life of your group. What plans do you have for your group?

IF YOUR GROUP IS 12 OR MORE INCLUDING LEADERS BREAK INTO SMALLER GROUPS.

discussion recap:

[this is where we recommend discussion from last week's lesson if you feel you need to reestablish understanding and respect.]

1. What did you learn last week?
2. What was the point/topic of last week's lesson?

[To grow in understanding and respect of the opposite sex/gender]

discussion warm-up:

Imagine that your group is filling in as an advice columnist for a teen magazine.

How would you answer these questions?

[questions will be provided separately]

discussion:

Two people tell you that they are in love and ask your advice about their relationship.

- 1) What do you tell them if they are both 12 years old?
 - a. 14 years old?
 - b. 18 years old?
- 2) Is there a way to determine whether two people are really in love, regardless of their age?
- 3) What or who has taught you the most about what it means to be in love?
- 4) What has influenced your own ideas about what being in a loving relationship is all about?
- 5) When you think about being in a loving relationship with someone, what expectations do you have of yourself and of the other person?

Invite a student to read 1 Cor. 13: 4-7 [before they read, say]

This bible passage describes love and is often read at weddings. It is about love in any relationship, but we can use it to see if our ideas about romantic love measure up. As the passage is read aloud, think about past relationships or the one you are in now, whether it is a friendship or a romantic relationship.

Have the student read aloud and invited the students to follow along in their bibles.

- 1) How can you know for sure that someone loves you, according to these verses?
- 2) Do you agree with this description of love?
- 3) What would you change or add?
- 4) How does this description differ from our culture's portrayal of love?

reflection & response

- 1) Is this kind of love possible?
- 2) Is it worth waiting for or working toward?
- 3) Should we settle for something else?
- 4) How are your experiences of love or your ideas about being in love similar to or different from the love described in the Bible reading?
- 5) Name one of the characteristics of love from the Bible reading that's an area you personally need to work on in your current or future love life. [have everyone answer this one]

closing your group:

Love should be at the core of any relationship that a Christian is in. This holds true for friendships as well as romantic relationships, where love is more than warm, gushy feelings, and more than what a person/friend can/will do for me, but love that is expressed in kindness and caring, respect, servanthood and compassion.