

# LEAD SHEET

Relationships : A Biblical View - Week 2

## THE DATING GAME

June 4, 2017

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:**

### **PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE**

If you want to know God better, memorize and apply His Word!

### **GETTING STARTED**

#### **General Discussion:**

- When I say, "dating" what other words come to mind?  
(*Boyfriends, girlfriends, love, broken hearts, etc.*)
- How many of you know someone who has been hurt by a dating relationship? (*Allow for discussion.*)
- Do you think it is okay to date? What are some reasons not to date? (*Yes, no. People's hearts get broken, etc.*)
- As a Christian teenager, why might it not be okay to date? (*We are not ready; some dating relationships are not God honoring.*)

This might all sound pretty crazy to you, but we are going there today. So buckle up! It is not so much my goal to convince you that dating is wrong. I am going to tell you what dating is and challenge you to make a Spirit-led decision as you seek to follow Jesus.

## **DIGGING IN**

Song of Solomon is a book we do not study very often. It is about a love relationship between Solomon and his young bride. There is a lot of stuff in there that sounds confusing and a little old fashioned. Like many love songs, it has some corny parts.

There is one piece of timeless wisdom I want to share.

### **Read Song of Solomon 2:7**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think this verse could possibly mean in regard to dating? *(That we should not start dating too soon.)*
2. What is the right "reason" to start dating?  
*(Allow for discussion.)*
3. How might "awakening love" and dating be two different things? *(To some, dating does not have anything to do with love, it is something you do for fun. We will discuss this in more detail later.)*
4. Do any of your friends apply this spiritual wisdom to their lives? *(Allow for discussion. Most teenagers are not living wisely in this area.)*

As you can see, there is some disagreement on this topic. Maybe we have jumped ahead too fast. Let's back up and have a more fundamental discussion.

#### **General Discussion:**

- What is the goal of dating? *(Have fun, something to do, way to get to know someone, etc.)*
- What might be some other goals of dating? *(Really challenge students to come up with a solid list.)*

- Why is dating important? Why does everyone want to date? (*Peer pressure, acceptance.*)

Okay, we are going to do some reverse engineering. If people date for these reasons (*reference the reasons they came up with*), then let's brainstorm backwards.

### **General Discussion:**

- What are some other ways to do these things? (*If they said, have fun, maybe they will mention hanging out with friends, playing a sport, watching a movie, etc.*)
- If dating is important to you so that you can fit in, what are some other ways to fit in? (*Join a team, have something in common with someone, spend time with people you do not usually spend time with, etc.*)
- If you think you need to date to get to know someone better, what are some other ways you can do that? (*Attending youth functions, small group studies, visiting each other's home while parents are present, etc.*)
- If you can achieve the goals of dating in other ways, then why do you think people really date? (*The goal here is to get them to conclude that they just want to date.*)

The simple fact is, we date because we want to date. That is totally fine if you are not a Christian. However, if you are a follower of Christ, you don't do things just because you want to. You need to do it (or not do it) because Jesus said so.

## **MAKING IT REAL**

What you want and what God wants for you may be two very different things. Sometimes we are unwilling to accept what God wants because we are rebellious, selfish, and sinful. Other times, we chase what we want because we do not recognize what God wants. To make all this real, let's be very clear in what God wants for us.

## **Read Genesis 2:18-24**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was not good, according to God, in Genesis 2:18?  
*(That man was alone.)*
2. What did God do about it? *(He created woman.)*
3. What was the point of all this, according to verse 24?  
*(For man and woman to leave their parents and be united together as one.)*
4. What does this passage say about what God wants for you? *(He wants us to have a loving marriage that lasts.)*

## **Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-11**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is God's command here concerning marriage? *(It should not end in divorce.)*
2. Why do you think God gives this command? *(Because marriage is holy to Him.)*
3. How can disobeying this command hurt people?  
*(It affects kids, hurts feelings, etc.)*

Genesis tells us marriage was God's idea. 1 Corinthians points out that marriage is supposed to be lasting, permanent, and honored.

### **General Discussion:**

- Do you want to have a loving marriage that lasts? What do you think it will take to have this type of commitment?  
*(Most will say yes, some will not know. Either way, it will take a lot of work.)*
- What are some things you can do now to ensure that you have that kind of marriage? *(Many opinions will surface here. Accept them all graciously.)*
- How might "awakening love before it is time" disrupt your goal of having a successful marriage?  
*(Allow for discussion.)*

- What is the point of dating? If it is just to have fun, is it worth having fun to mess up your future?

*(I do not think so.)*

- How do dating relationships usually end? *(Breakups, sometimes marriage.)*

I want you to be in the middle of God's Will for your life. If you want to have a God-honoring future, you need to have a God-honoring present. That takes us back to a piece of wisdom we have talked about already today. Back to Song of Solomon we go:

"Do not stir up or awaken love until the appropriate time."  
Song of Solomon 2:7b

**I think we have established the following:**

- Dating is a little bit of a game, a tug of war, that can end badly for one or both people involved.
- God wants you to have a lasting, loving marriage someday.
- God is calling you not to stir up love before it is time.

You have a decision to make with this information. I am going to pray for you to commit to wise living, not just down the line when you are older, but now, too.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray for students to live wisely and not let peer pressure or the youth culture around them prompt them to date unnecessarily or too soon.