

MAIN POINT: Focus on you before you focus on who.

OPENER:

Pick one or two of the questions below and have each of your students give an answer to get them all talking:

- 1.** Who is your celebrity crush?
- 2.** What's your favorite love story from a book or movie? Why do you love their love?
- 3.** What are reasons people date? What are some reasons people don't date?
- 4.** Do you think why you date matters? Why or why not?

READ:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7
NLT

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

ASK:

- 1.** How would you explain or describe love?
- 2.** How does God describe love?
- 3.** How could your reasons for dating impact how you treat the person you are or will be dating?
- 4.** What kind of things are people looking for when they are looking for someone to date?
- 5.** What do you think it means to "focus on you before you focus on who?"
- 6.** What are ways you can focus on becoming someone who loves like God over looking for someone to date?

READ:

Pass out the student handouts and ask students to **write their name in the blanks**. Then have **everyone read** the verse to themselves with their name in it:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT Personalized

"_____ is patient and kind. _____ is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. _____ does not demand his/her own way. _____ is not irritable, and keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ _____ does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ _____ never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

ASK:

1. *What was it like reading the verse with your name in it?*
2. *Which part of this verse do you struggle living out the most? Why is that hard for you?*
3. *What are some specific ways you can work on loving more like God loves?*
4. *What is one quality that is important to you in another person?*
5. *Would people say you have that quality in your life?*
6. *Why is it important to focus on the qualities in yourself first before looking for them in others?*

UNPACK:

Books and movies can paint an unrealistic picture of love. God paints for us a perfect picture of love.

God knows we aren't perfect but He can help us to grow to love more like His does - perfectly. **We can grow into becoming more and more the people God calls us to be everyday.**

Maybe dating isn't for you right now, but there are always ways we can improve in loving others. For example, can you practice loving your family members with a 1 Corinthians 13 type of love?

NEXT STEP: This summer, pick one or two qualities from 1 Corinthians 13, and find a way to practice it in your life. Ask students to share what qualities they are going to focus on improving. What are they going to do to focus on it?

Close your time together in prayer.



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