

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

MSM Dating & Sex Small Group Series | May 2019

## Parent to Parent

Empowering students to navigate relationships, attraction, and sex with a foundation on God's Word

Communicating with middle schoolers can be challenging. **And it's especially difficult to know what to say and how to say it when it comes to specific issues like sex.** We know that the middle and high school years are a time to lean in and keep the conversation going with our kids, but sometimes the awkwardness and attitudes can make us want to do just the opposite.

In MSM small groups we will be keeping the conversation going with 4 weeks of small groups discussions. **This packet is to help provide you with both what we will be talking about and further resources on how to have ongoing conversations with your students at home about this topic.**

### ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE RESOURCES

Ever Accountable: <https://www.everaccountable.com/>

Accountable2you.app: <https://www.accountable2you.com/features>

Covenant eyes (better for computer): <http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Net Nanny (gives deeper parental controls): <https://www.netnanny.com>

Triple X Church (free but limited): <https://x3watch.com/>

### WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEOS

All teaching videos for this series can be found on [theparenthub.net](http://theparenthub.net). Click tab: "What We're Learning - Middle School" We even recommend you watch these in advance with your students!

### TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT PORN?

Did you know the average age of exposure to porn is 8-11 years old? 80% of this happens within the home. Our goal is to equip students to know how to respond Biblically.

### "IS GOD ANTI-GAY?" BY SAM ALLBERRY

We won't be teaching on homosexuality, but we know your students may bring up some questions. Mike Lee interviewed this author and we highly recommend this short book.

## SERIES AT A GLANCE:

### May 4 & 5

*Main Scripture:*

Romans 12:1-2

*Main Point:* God's design for sex is better than the world's design for sex.

### May 11 & 12

*Main Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 6:12

*Main Point:* Control your obsessions or they will control you.

### May 18 & 19

*Main Scripture:*

Mark 12:31

*Main Point:* Value what God values.

### May 25 & 26

*Main Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Main Point:* Focus on you before you focus on who.

**Complete Leader Guides and XP3 Parent Cue attached**

# "God's Design"

## A NOTE TO LEADERS

Okay, we know. Talking about sex is always awkward. Especially when you're talking about sex with your small group. As you may recall from your own middle school experience, your students' understandings and perceptions of sex might be all over the map. So as you prepare for this week's conversation, be careful not to walk in with too many assumptions about what your students know, wonder about, or worry about when it comes to sex. **Your goal in small group today should NOT be to give all the answers about sex and dating.** Instead, get your students talking so that you can better understand their current realities and prove that your small group is a safe place to talk about anything. Including awkward stuff, like sex. There may be times you need to navigate away from answering questions your students ask saying something like, "That a great question. I'm not sure the best answer so let me get back to you on that next week."

**Your goals today should be two-fold** and go with the whole point of this series:

- 1) To open up a safe space for healthy conversation**
- 2) To point your students to relying more on God's word and God-centered adults** than their friends' or culture's word when it comes to understanding physical attraction, relationships, and sex.

Please also note, we want you to be able to be honest and vulnerable about where God has brought victory personally in your life, **but please share in a way that is age appropriate for your audience.** **Be cautious** in what you share, speaking generally and avoiding specifics or graphic comments. If you even question that sharing something personal could cause a student to struggle, then, especially for this series, hold off sharing.

## SERIES OVERVIEW

Have you ever stopped and wondered why some clothing companies have ads with people who are barely dressed or have you ever heard inappropriate sexual lyrics in a song? Our culture bombards us with messages about sex and sexuality all the time. We can hear a lot on dating and sexuality from friends and people at school too. But all those messages give us expectations on dating and sexuality that aren't always healthy or reliable. We want to create a safe space in MSM small groups for us to talk about healthy relationships and where God fits into all of this. Well, God actually designed sex and His design is better than the world's design for sex. If we aren't paying attention, we can allow our culture to teach us to devalue ourselves and other people. Having a healthy and godly view of dating and sexuality now, either before you start dating or while you are at the beginning of your dating journey, can help set you up on a healthy foundation

## MAIN POINT: God's design for sex is better than the world's design for sex.

### OPENER:

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

- 1.** What are some things people have high expectations for? (Things that would be disappointing if it didn't happen the way you pictured like grades, birthday presents, etc).
- 2.** If someone only gets their information from movies, music, and culture - what would be some of their dating expectations?
- 3.** Do you think culture and media should be our source of information for what dating relationships should look like? Why or why not?

### READ:

#### *Video Recap*

*Let's review some points and definitions they said in the video:*

- 1.** ***God designed sex** and He designed us to have sexual desires.*
- 2.** *Sexual desires are attractions or feelings we want to express through things like dating, kissing, looking at pictures, etc. God designed us to have desires.*
- 3.** *Sexuality is how we express our sexual desires. Our culture bombards us with an unhealthy view of sexuality. **Sexuality is not our identity but our actions.***
- 4.** *God's design for sex is in marriage. God's design for sex is better than the world's design for sex.*

### ASK:

*We know this topic can be awkward but we **want small groups to be a safe space to talk about anything**, including attraction, relationships, and sexuality. Remember that what people share in small group should be kept in small group and **not spread as gossip.***

- 1.** Why can it be awkward to talk about sex and sexuality?
- 2.** Does it change your view of sex and sexuality to know that God created them?
- 3.** Do you hear unhealthy comments about sexuality or dating at school? How do you handle that?

## READ:

### *Romans 12:1-2 NIV*

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

## ASK:

- 1.** What do you think it means to follow the pattern of the world?
- 2.** What are ways we can keep from following the pattern of the world?
- 3.** Having someone you can talk to about sexuality is important. Who is a wise person you can talk to about the questions, confusions, or struggles you have about sex and sexuality?

## DO:

We realize that you may have some questions you don't feel comfortable asking out-loud. **We are going to take a few minutes so everyone has a chance to write down any questions you may want to talk about in the next few weeks.** You can write your name on it or you can leave your name off, it's totally up to you. **MSM Staff will take the questions and answer some of them on the Hope Student Ministry app.** (Leaders, please hand these cards to your MSM Staff. We recommend you look over your cards too to give you insight into what your students are wondering - maybe you could answer some questions in the following weeks for your group).

**NEXT STEP:** You may still have questions or questions may come up later about dating or sexuality. Remember to **think through who you are hearing about sex from and ask yourself are they the most reliable source?** Take your questions to a god-centered adult who can speak wisdom in your life. **Close your time together in prayer.**

# "Am I Obsessed?"

## A NOTE TO LEADERS

Please remember, we want you to be able to be honest and vulnerable about where God has brought victory personally in your life, **but please share in a way that is age appropriate for your audience. Be cautious** in what you share, speaking generally and avoiding specifics or graphic comments. If you even question that sharing something personal could cause a student to struggle, then, especially for this series, hold off sharing.

You probably already know that middle schoolers get really passionate about a LOT of things, and that can be great and healthy! The problem is when their passion starts to become an obsession that takes over their life. So take some time this week to remind your students that while it's awesome to be passionate about things, if those things control their thoughts and actions and cause them to ignore other parts of their life or give in to temptations, they should start setting some boundaries. Be sure to tell your students that you're available to talk with them privately about any obsession they're struggling with right now. **The goal of small group today is to help students identify the power of obsession in their life and begin to set boundaries around them.**

**If a student tells you they are struggling to stop watching pornography and/or masturbating, engage in a conversation with them about it:**

- **First, affirm** them for being vulnerable enough to tell you and for stepping up to and ask for help. THAT IS HUGE!
- **If you are a high school student, let them know you are going to bring in adult small group leader or staff** so we can walk alongside both of you in this conversation. Go together right then to continue the conversation.
- **Let them know you'll be praying for them and there is some accountability software** they can use to help them (see below).
- Remind them that **God's forgiveness to us is unlimited** and that we can lean on the **Holy Spirit's power** to help us overcome temptation.
- **Remind them that the more trusted people "on their team" helping them overcome this struggle the better**, including parents! While watching pornography and/or masturbating aren't mandated reporting items you legally have to tell parents, **we highly encourage students to share this with their parents.** Your student may be terrified of this, but encourage them it's in their best interest and even offer to be with them while they tell their parents if that will help.

### ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE RESOURCES

Ever Accountable: <https://www.everaccountable.com/>

Accountable2you.app: <https://www.accountable2you.com/features>

Covenant eyes (better for computer): <http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Net Nanny (gives deeper parental controls): <https://www.netnanny.com>

**MAIN POINT: Control your obsessions or they will control you.**

**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 all-time favorite sports team, athlete, singer, actor, actress, or celebrity?
- 2.** What are some different things that middle schoolers get passionate about?
- 3.** What do you think is the difference between passion and obsession? Give an example.

**READ:**

*1 Corinthians 6:12  
NLT*

*"You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything."*

**ASK:**

- 1.** What do you think this verse means? How does it relate to our topic today?
- 2.** What are some examples of good things that can become bad if someone gets obsessed over them?
- 3.** What are some ways an obsession could negatively impact your life?
- 4.** What can make it difficult for someone to recognize or admit if they have an obsession?

**DO:**

Have your students take their "Am I Obsessed?" quiz. Since this topic can be personal, don't ask specific questions about their obsessions. Instead, ask students to think about their quiz results and make some healthy changes if they're close to obsession territory.



## READ:

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."

## ASK:

**1.** *Our obsessions can lead us to giving in to temptations. Where is God when we are facing temptation?*

**2.** *A boundary is a line that marks the limit of something. Examples of boundaries are not hanging out alone or not being on your phone when you are alone. How can creating boundaries be a good thing and help us overcome an obsession?*

**3.** *What's one area of your life where you might need to create boundaries?*

**4.** *This week, what's one step you can take to set those boundaries? (If your students have trouble coming up with this on their own, help them brainstorm and decide on one.)*

## UNPACK:

The word "boundaries" is NOT exciting, but **having boundaries in our lives is a really good thing.** Boundaries are there to protect us and others. God gives us boundaries not to dull our life down or steal any freedom, but to keep us from having to experience certain negative consequences of crossing boundaries.

If you have crossed a boundary, or are facing an obsession or temptation, **first know God loves you and offers forgiveness if you ask Him.** Second, talk to God about it and **ask God for His help to overcome it.** If you still struggle to stop, ask a mature Christian to talk with you and pray for you.

**NEXT STEP:** We are going to take a few moments as a group to pray in silence. If you have anything you are obsessed with or tempted about, ask God for His forgiveness and His help to overcome what you are going through. This week, set some boundaries in your life that can help you overcome your obsession. *Close your time together in prayer.*

# AM I OBSESSED?

Sometimes it's difficult to know whether something you're passionate about is heading toward an obsession. To help you figure it out, complete this quiz by placing a check next to the answer that best describes your passion:

- YES  NO Do I think about this all the time?
- YES  NO Do I talk about this all the time?
- YES  NO Do I spend a majority of my free time doing this?
- YES  NO Is this the last thing I think about when I go to sleep or the first thing I think about when I wake up?
- YES  NO Do I have trouble sleeping because I think about this so much?
- YES  NO Do I feel better or worse when I take part in this?
- YES  NO Do I do this for longer periods of time than I had originally planned?
- YES  NO Do I feel upset if I'm not able to take part in this?
- YES  NO Do people in my life make comments about how much I talk about or spend time doing this?
- YES  NO Do I tell myself that I'm not going to spend time doing this anymore, but end up doing this anyway?

If you answered "yes" to more than five of these questions, your passion could actually be turning into an obsession. That doesn't mean you have to cut this thing out of your life altogether, but it does mean you should start finding balance and setting boundaries. Start by asking a trusted friend, adult, or Small Group Leader to help you figure out ways to create limits and rules for yourself. Then, determine a first step you can take to begin to change your behavior so that you can live the free and full life God intends for you to live.

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# "Value"

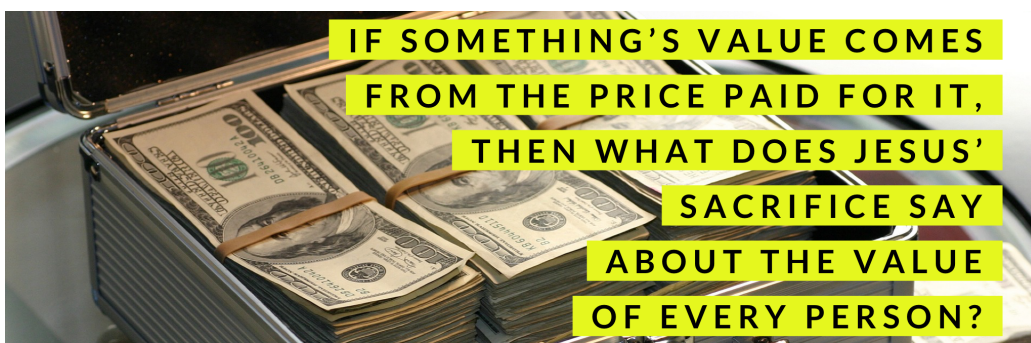
## A NOTE TO LEADERS

As you're leading your students through a discussion about value and respect, keep in mind that it's easy for middle schoolers to get wrapped up in what everyone else is doing. They can be easily influenced by their peers to act and think in certain ways. So if students' friends or family don't value themselves or other people, they might think it's normal and do the same. Remember that middle schoolers are keen observers, they notice and remember what you say and do. So try to model the type of behavior that Jesus demonstrated by treating yourself and others with respect and honor.

The main goals of small group today are to **help students recognize the value in both themselves and others** and to encourage them to **treat everyone** (including themselves) **with the value and respect they deserve**.

**There can often be a disconnect in what we know we should value and how we act.** Probably the majority of students know they should value others, but do their actions show that? On certain questions, really take time to push students to think of what actions they can take to value others. Encourage students to even ask for forgiveness where they may have devalued others.

Last but not least, because middle school is an age where we place an extremely high value on what others think, **some students may not know what to do if someone asks them to do something that would make them feel less valued.** They may feel like they HAVE to do it if they want any friends or to have any value. That is simply NOT true. Encourage your students that they have intrinsic value that God, the Creator of the Universe Himself, has given them and they don't have to do anything to earn or keep that value. It's perfectly fine for them to tell someone, "No I won't do that." If they need support in saying no to others, encourage them to reach out to a parent or yourself.



## MAIN POINT: Value what God values.

### OPENER:

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

- 1.** If people value and respect others, how do they treat them?
- 2.** If people don't value and respect others, how do they treat them?
- 3.** Do you think you should treat others, ALL others, will value and respect? Why or why not?

### READ:

#### *Luke 19:1-10 NLT*

*"Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." <sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. <sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" <sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."*

### ASK:

- 1.** How did other people treat Zacchaeus?
- 2.** How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus?
- 3.** Think to yourself, does the way you treat others look more like the people in this story or Jesus?
- 4.** What are things we can do to treat others more like Jesus?
- 5.** How can people use social media to devalue each other? How can social media be used to treat others more like Jesus treats us?

## READ:

*Mark 12:31 NLT*

*"The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*

## ASK:

1. What does it mean to value yourself?
2. What do you think about this statement from the video: "When we devalue ourselves it's often because we are looking for love or attention, which isn't wrong. But the route you take to get there is not healthy."
3. What are things people do to show they don't value themselves?
4. What are ways we can encourage other people and ourselves of knowing our value?
5. How can we respond to other people when they ask us to do something that devalues us?

## UNPACK:

Some of us may struggle more with valuing ourselves - we want love and attention and so we do things that aren't healthy to get them because we don't fully believe in our intrinsic value. Some of us may struggle more with valuing others - we feel like we can pick and choose who we value. **But God has hand-created each and every single one of us and everyone has intrinsic value.** That means that neither we nor others have to do anything to earn value.

**NEXT STEP:** Take a moment to think to yourself: Do you have a harder time valuing yourself or valuing other people? Whichever one is harder for you, think of one thing you can do this week to encourage yourself or others of your/their value. ***Close your time together in prayer.***

**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<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.<sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.<sup>7</sup> 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 <sup>5</sup> or rude. \_\_\_\_\_ does not demand his/her own way. \_\_\_\_\_ is not irritable, and keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 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.*



**GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS**

**Focus on loving others  
like God loves you.**



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**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT**  
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# DATING

## CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD "DATING"? SOME OF US MAY REMEMBER A FAVORITE ROMANTIC MOVIE. SOME OF US MAY FEEL THE STING OF OUR FIRST HEARTBREAK. YOU MAY THINK BACK WITH FONDNESS TO YOUR VERY FIRST DATE. IF YOU HAVE TEENAGERS WHO ARE ABOUT TO DATE OR ARE ALREADY DATING, YOU MAY JUST THINK, "NO!" AND WANT TO RUN FAR, FAR AWAY. AS TEMPTING AS THAT MAY BE, IT'S NOT AN OPTION—OR AT LEAST NOT AN OPTION THAT WILL HELP YOUR TEEN NAVIGATE DATING SUCCESSFULLY. AT SOME POINT YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT DATING WITH YOUR TEEN (FOLLOWED BY MANY MORE CONVERSATIONS). WE WANT TO HELP GET YOU STARTED BY GIVING YOU SOME WORDS TO SAY AND WORDS NOT TO SAY.

## WHAT TO SAY

### (BEFORE THEY START DATING)

- "We know you want to make good choices. We're here to help you."
- "I want you to have the best dating experience in high school and look back on it with as few regrets as possible."
- "Let's talk about what your \*Personal Values are before you start dating."
- "It's important to ask yourself, \*Who Am I Looking For? before you begin dating. Let's make a list of some of those qualities."
- "Who are some friends or other trusted adults you feel you can talk to about dating who will help you make good decisions?"
- "Saying no to someone who wants to go on a date with you or be in a relationship with you doesn't make you a bad person. Just remember to always be honest and kind when communicating."
- "You can't always be close friends with someone who has a crush on you or someone you have a crush on when feelings aren't mutual."
- "Be careful with your words and clothing so you don't lead a person's thoughts or emotions somewhere they don't need to be yet."
- "The rules in your friends' homes will be different than our rules and that's okay."
- "Let's work on a \*Dating Agreement together to help us both know what to expect."

### (DURING DATING)

- Ask questions like: "How was your date?"  
"Did you have fun?" "What did you do?"  
"How are you feeling about (name of date)?"  
"Do they make you feel important?"  
"Are they who you thought they would be?"
- "If anyone tells you to prove you care for them by doing more sexually than what you want to do, that's a sign you shouldn't be dating that person."
- "Let's look back at our \*Dating Agreement (or fill it out if you haven't already) and make sure we still agree."

### (AFTER A BREAKUP)

- "It's okay to be sad."
- "It won't always hurt as badly as it hurts right now."
- "Even though this stinks, what are some things you learned from this?"
- "God has good plans for you."
- "God still loves that person and he still loves you."
- "It's wise to have some time away from that person."
- "Now is a good time to invest in spending time with your close friends."

## WHAT NOT TO SAY

- "I know you're probably going to do what you want anyway."
- "You're old enough to decide on your own."
- "I never liked them anyway."
- "If you \_\_\_\_\_, no guy/girl will ever want you."
- "I can't believe you did that."
- "Well, if that's what all of your friends are doing, then I guess it's ok."

\* For the additional resources mentioned, talk with your student leader.

# DATING AGREEMENT

I KNOW BEING ALLOWED TO GO ON DATES IS A PRIVILEGE. I RESPECT THAT MY PARENTS LOVE ME AND WANT GOD'S BEST FOR ME. MY PARENTS RESPECT THAT I AM BECOMING A YOUNG ADULT AND WANT THE PRIVILEGE OF DATING. THIS DATING AGREEMENT IS A STARTING POINT AND CAN BE UPDATED WHEN WE AGREE THAT IT IS NEEDED. THE GOAL IS THAT I CAN HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY PARENTS AND THE PERSON I CHOOSE TO DATE.

## WITH THAT IN MIND, WE AGREE:

1. That I can begin dating when I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
2. To keep communicating about my personal values on dating, relationships and physical contact.

(DEFINE YOUR PERSONAL VALUES ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. INCLUDE YOUR GOALS FOR DATING AND SPECIFIC BOUNDARIES THAT WILL HELP YOU STICK TO YOUR VALUES AND REACH YOUR GOALS.)

3. I will introduce my date to my parents before I will be able to go out alone on a date with them. I understand that I may hang out in groups with friends who my parents know without introductions, but I am to communicate openly about who I am hanging out with.
4. I will not date anyone \_\_\_\_\_ years older than me or anyone \_\_\_\_\_ years younger than me.
5. I am allowed to go on \_\_\_\_\_ dates per week. This includes visiting at each other's homes but not group or school outings.
6. I will be home—in the door and date gone—by \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.
7. I will tell my parents where I am going to be and with whom for the entire time I am gone.
8. My responsibilities come first. I will keep up with these responsibilities or possibly lose my dating privileges.

(DEFINE THESE RESPONSIBILITIES ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. SOME EXAMPLES ARE: HOMEWORK, CHORES, CHURCH, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, INVESTING IN FRIENDS, SLEEP, ETC.)

9. As a young man, I am responsible for paying for my dates, not my parents. As a young woman, if my date doesn't pay, I should not expect my parents to pick up the bill.

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PARENT SIGNATURE

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

# PERSONAL VALUES

WE ALL VALUE SOMETHING. IT CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS A FAVORITE PAIR OF SHOES OR SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT LIKE TIME WITH A GRANDPARENT ONCE A WEEK. WHEN IT COMES TO DATING, BEFORE YOU ENTER A RELATIONSHIP, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOU DECIDE WHAT'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO YOU THAT YOU AREN'T WILLING TO COMPROMISE—THINGS LIKE INVESTING IN OTHER FRIENDSHIPS, MAKING TIME TO STUDY, DATING SOMEONE WITH YOUR SAME FAITH OR "HOW FAR" YOU WILL OR WON'T GO SEXUALLY. KNOWING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU IS THE FIRST STEP TO HAVING THE BEST DATING EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE.

SO THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU? WHAT ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU VALUE NOW AND WANT TO CONTINUE TO VALUE WHEN YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE? WHAT ARE BOUNDARIES YOU WANT TO HAVE FOR THE PHYSICAL SIDE OF A RELATIONSHIP? WHAT ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE A PRIORITY EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP? **MAKE A LIST BELOW UNDER EACH SECTION TO GET YOU STARTED:**

RELATIONSHIPS (OUTSIDE OF DATING, LIKE GOD, FRIENDS, FAMILY, ETC.):

DATING RELATIONSHIP (INCLUDING PHYSICAL CONTACT, WHAT YOU WILL AND WON'T DO):

SCHOOL (HOMEWORK, SPORTS, CLUBS, ETC.):

OTHER (MISSION TRIPS, CHURCH ACTIVITIES, HOBBIES, ETC.):

This is a great start! Now think of three people you can share your personal values with and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable to your values. List the people below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

