

# »»» next step »»»

dating for girls

Am I ready to date? Who should I date? How do I know when I've met a godly man? In NES/FSM we've told you not to date, but now it's different as you are heading into college and we want you to have healthy relationships that lead to marriage. Read and discuss the following:

## Look up scripture:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - flee sexual immorality, glorify God with your body

2 Corinthians 6:14 - marry a believer in Christ

Psalms 127:1- the Lord must build the house

Ephesians 5:22-31 - servant leadership and submission

1 Peter 3:1-4 - gentle and quiet spirit, inner beauty

## 1. PURPOSE OF DATING: Are you ready to date?

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

Are you capable of putting Christ above your significant other?

Are you ready to sacrifice? Do you serve Christ together?

**A few thoughts...***Christ centered dating takes discernment and patience. You can't be self-centered and have any kind of healthy relationship. Dating towards marriage is not about playing games and always getting what you want. If you want to have a marriage and dating relationship that is fulfilling and honoring to God, then you need to be doing that before God puts a guy in your life.*

## 2. HOW TO SPOT A BIBLICAL MAN: Is he worthy to marry?

### IS.....

- Easily to see his spiritual vitality
- Has spiritual fruit
- Humble
- Servant hearted
- Bold for Christ
- Good listener
- Builds other people up (not just you)
- Consistency in all his friendships/relationships
- Puts foot down for physical boundaries

### ISN'T....

- Partying
- Christian by name only
- Self-centered
- Has conflicting character (looks good on paper but his life doesn't match it)
- Talking to lots of different girls
- Only texting to communicate with you
- "Booty calling" -he's desperate, has no other plans, just broke up with a girl, etc.
- **Puts you over his relationship with God**

**A few thoughts...***No guy is going to be perfect, but he should be pursuing God and working towards all these things. The most important thing to have in common with a guy is your love for God. His passion and faithfulness to Christ should make you want to grow in your passion and faithfulness to Christ, and it should be in all areas of his life. When you see that in a guy, that's when you know you've met someone that is worthy to date.*

## HOW TO DATE WELL: What does it look like?

### SHOULD

- Allow a guy to pursue you
- Have open communication often
- Hang out with friends
- Take it with pace (how long will you wait to say I love you?) Start with a friendship that leads to a relationship Disagree in a healthy way
- Have accountability with a girl
- Talk about what you are learning about God
- Pray for them

## SHOULDN'T

- Automatically make him part of your family at holidays, vacations, and gatherings
- Be in a dorm room alone together (movie marathons are bad news and other people's perception is reality) Kiss or hold hands if you aren't official (what will your boundaries be for when you are official?)
- Always be alone (hang out with groups)  
Always make one person be the boundary police

*A few thoughts...There is a physical, emotional, social and spiritual side to any relationship, how can you put up healthy boundaries in each of these areas? College is completely different than high school in setting boundaries, because you have a freedom that you probably don't have now while living at home. The most important thing you can do is have a great accountability partner that isn't afraid to ask hard questions and set boundaries for yourself before you get into a situation.*

## 3. IF YOU BREAK UP: the litmus test

### ARE YOU SERVING CHRIST BETTER TOGETHER OR SEPARATE?

- Make a clean break: you can't be friends, and you can't text even if you want to. It's not fair to either of you. Don't feel pressure if you don't feel comfortable with the relationship. This is where it's ok to be a leader. Don't throw the God card. It's ok to say this isn't the best thing for me and my relationship with God, but don't say that God told you to do it.

*A few thoughts...if you are breaking up with someone, remember to treat them how you want to be treated. This doesn't mean you need to keep stringing them along in a friendship. Sometimes the kindest thing is to allow someone to move on. If he breaks up with you, hopefully you have protected your heart. It's ok to hurt, but don't allow that to be your excuse to do something you will regret later. Remember God is in control, and if you are saying that you trust him, then he has a plan for you, and this can be your opportunity to be even more focused on Him and what he is doing.*

## 4. END GOAL: have a healthy marriage

There should be enough of the good things happening consistently that if can be extended into marriage. What does your dating relationship look like? How is it leading into what your marriage will look like? Is there room for continued growth and progress into marriage? (dating shouldn't be a mini-marriage). There should be a social, physical, emotional, and spiritual side in a healthy marriage. Dating is the beginning of these things, and they only get to grow and deepen in marriage. So if you want a husband that encourages and loves you, then don't date the guy that is always talking about himself or is critical of you. The "bad guy" that is a rebel, dangerous, or whatever isn't going to be any different married to you. Think about what you want your marriage to look like some day, and then be patient for the man that is already those things.

### Discussion Questions

- How do you think dating in college will be different than in high school? Have your leaders share 1-2 biggest mistakes that college students make in dating.
- What should YOU be doing right now to prepare yourself for the day you begin dating in college?
- What are some of the motivators for you in the past or currently when you have dated, or wanted to date a guy? (attention, curiosity, everyone else has a boyfriend?)
- What are some characteristics that you would add to the list of what a biblical man is? Do you have scripture to back them up?
- Ask your leaders what drew them to their husbands, or are on their lists for their future husband?
- When you have tried to have accountability groups or partners in the past, what has made them successful? What has caused them to fail? How can you have healthy accountability in college?
- What couples have you looked up to as an example of a godly marriage? How have you seen them have an emotional, social, physical, and spiritual side to their relationship?