



BAEWATCH

GRACE TO SAVE US FROM A HOOK UP CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Downtown Worship Night, February 18, 6:30 Knox Church
- Downtown Launch, February 25, 6:30PM, Knox Church
- Baby Dedication, March 11, 10:30PM Vi Juba Theatre

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- Your perspective when it comes to dating and marriage; that you will choose to date in view of marriage and not be a victim of the hook up culture.
- For Mosaic Downtown plans and strategies.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

All people love a happy ending, and most individuals like to live happily ever after with someone they love. Finding a spouse for life is a God-given desire. However, in today's "Hook-up" generation, dating is seen as a trial period instead of a preparation season. In this study, we will learn the true function of dating in view of marriage.

Ephesians 5:25-26 NLT, 25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

ICE BREAKER: Have everyone in the room share about their first crush or their "non-negotiable" when looking for a boyfriend/girlfriend.

OPENING: If we are to look at God's design for romantic relationships and life-time partnerships, we will also notice that dating always has marriage as its direct goal. If you don't see yourself living the rest of your life with that person, then don't date just for the sake of fun. You only have one heart. Whether you feel it or not, your heart is vulnerable. That is why it is so important to guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23) and not give it away multiple times in several different trial relationships. Christian Psychologists call this "emotional promiscuity". Each time you give your heart away, you lose a part of it. The Bible encourages us to keep first things first.

The first rule in dating is the first rule in all of life: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). It's all about becoming the one that God designed for you to be for His glory. You will not truly love anyone else if you do not love God first and most. And no one will truly love you if they do not love God more than they love you. Develop your deep love for Jesus first before anything else. Your love for God will make your love for the person you choose to date and marry more meaningful, deep and fruitful.

The first step in dating should always be the step of faith we take toward our Lord, Savior, and greatest Treasure, King Jesus.

He captures our heart; we find our deepest joy in him. We hide our soul in him, and stop trying to save or prove ourselves. We devote our minds to knowing him more and more, and plead with him to conform our mind and will to his. We put all our strength into his goal and plan for our life: to make disciples who love him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

How to Find a Date.

1. *Seek Christ first and find yourself in Him* (Matthew 6:33), and dating will be added according to his perfect plan and timing. If our heart is not there — if our soul is not already safe through faith and content in Christ, our hearts will look to dating relationship for security and completeness, and use it is for which it isn't designed to provide. If our mind is distracted and focused on other, lesser things, if our best strength is being spent on the things of this world — jobs, sports, shopping, entertainment, relationships, and not on God — we simply will not date well.

2. *Develop yourself* (2 Peter 1:3-8): spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and financially—in that order. Be faithful in the little things, even the smallest responsibilities given to you; whether it's coiling cables or flipping burgers; do your best in everything. You can be the date and life time partner someone you desire to have will desire to have. Ask God to give you dreams to pursue and people to lead.

3. *It's always best to look your best, inside and out* (Ruth 3:3-4 and 1 Samuel 16:7). Your life is both physical and spiritual, and it's important to make both sides of who you are beautiful before God and people. The Bible teaches us to seek delight in the inward beauty He has given us; and steward our bodies as His servants, not as if they were our own. A Christian is not called to be sloppy, but we're also not called to be vain. But it is always good to be our best inside and out for the glory of God (Colossians 3:17).

4. *Pray.* Take time to ask God to reveal to you His long-term calling, and ask God to help you find someone who has the same calling with the same passion as you. It doesn't hurt to write down your standards and pray through each of them. We believe God answers prayers!

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

Dating is a preparation time, not a trial period. Can someone tell us what differences there are between preparation and trial?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Have you ever thought that if you found the right person you would be happy? From where do you get your happiness?

Are you in a relationship for which you are not ready? Would it be beneficial for you to take some "time off" from dating to become develop yourself?

Pastor Jon talked about how we need to find our wholeness and completeness in Christ. What are some practical ways we can become complete in Christ?

Last Sunday, Pastor Ta said, "When you marry someone, you marry a sinner just like yourself." What specific areas in your life do you need God to heal first even before you could consider yourself healthy enough to start dating?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

God wants to develop you, but Satan wants to distract you. What are some ways that you've experienced the devil trying to distract you?

How can Satan use dating relationships to distract you? Has he distracted you in these ways in past relationships?

How do you safeguard yourself in future relationships from these distractions?

What are some practical ways for you to stay focused on developing who you can be in God?

Consider the following:
Just like Jennie Lusko (when she was a young intern), make a decision to not date anyone for an entire year and devote your time focusing on your growth and ministry.

Enrol in a gym and consistently work out to get yourself fit.

Instead of just attending a DGroup, start one so God can develop your leadership.

Spend more time engaging with real friends than online or gaming?

If you're in a developing relationship that is either unhealthy or you know you're not ready for, take time off.