

DATING: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION

Small Group Activity (10 minutes-Choose one)

1. **Separate the guys and girls into two groups. Ask each to write down the ultimate qualities or expectations that they are looking for in the opposite sex. When they are done, come back together and share the results.**
2. **Separate the girls from the guys and have them brainstorm about their “perfect date”. Bring them back together to share.**

SHOW THE VIDEO (16 MINUTES)

Small Group Questions (10 minutes - 5 per group, assign 3 or 4 questions)

1. How does the media affect your understanding of sex and dating?
2. Why do people want to go out on a date? For sex? Friendship?
3. How important is it to you to be going out with someone?
4. How does your dating life make you feel about yourself? How important is it to your friends? Do you feel pressured to date?
5. What are the positives or negatives of spending too much time dating someone? (Write down the answers so they can compare the positives vs. the negatives.)
6. How can you avoid spending too much time with one person?
7. One of the cons of spending too much time with one person is the temptation of having sex. What are some ways to avoid this?
8. Where do your moral standards come from and what makes you think you will stick to them?

Small Group Activity (3 minutes)

Have your students write a note to themselves on 3 x 5 cards to help them avoid going too far on a date. Have them write how far they plan to go sexually, and what their boundaries are. They can put it in their purse or wallet to remind them of their standards.

DATING: WRAP-UP

DON'T SPEND ALL OF YOUR TIME WITH ONE PERSON.

- Make it a priority to spend time with friends and family.
- Look at what happened to Miguel when he spent all his time with that one girl.

AVOID SEX! IT BRINGS EMOTIONAL PAIN AND OFTEN DISEASES—INCLUDING AIDS.

- Decide right now how you want to act regarding sex. Don't wait until you are in the heat of passion.
- Plan your dates so that you stay away from the couch, the drive-in movie, the floor, the bedroom. Double date!
- Plan your dates around the fact that you are trying to get to know the person better.
- Plan dates where you can communicate with words rather than your lips. Avoid movies with steamy love scenes!

YOU NEED TO SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS.

- Spend time building friendships with others. This will give you a good foundation and good self-image. If you get all wrapped up in a boyfriend or girlfriend without having any good friends, then you will be all torn up when the relationship is over.

CONSIDER YOUR MORALS FIRST WHEN DATING AND CHOOSING WHO TO DATE.

- If you have any doubts about who to go out with, ask a friend (who will help you keep your standards) for some insight.

IF YOU'VE ALREADY HAD SEX, IT'S A GREAT TIME TO START ABSTINENCE!

- You can start over today to be a secondary virgin, to wait for marriage! It may be difficult to wait, but it's worth it!
- Sex does more to confuse a teenage relationship than it does to help it.

HOMework: DATING

HOMework Project: Dating and TV

Videotape 2 TV programs that have teenagers around your age in them. Write down the names of the characters and a brief description of who they are and where the show takes place, etc. Then analyze their romances using the following questions:

1. Describe their romances and dates.
2. What is implied that takes place in their sex lives?
3. How do you view the lives of these characters, good or bad, and why?
4. Do you wish you were living any of these characters' lives in terms of who they date and what their dating life is like? Why or why not?
5. What is the basis or foundation of their dating relationships?
6. How is this different than what you see as the basis for your dating relationships or those of your friends'?
7. How is the sexual aspect of these TV relationships different than real life?
8. How does it help or hurt your expectations of a relationship or date?
9. What is fake or unbelievable about the TV romances? (Include comments on sex lives, the things they actually say to each other, etc.)
10. How should your dating relationships be different from those on TV?

HOMework Project: Endangered Species—Virgins

Make a questionnaire that you can hand out to at least 10 guys and 10 girls. Put your name on the top of the survey. Ask them to hand in the surveys anonymously. Set up a survey box in class, or at a counselor's office. Retrieve the box after three days. Include at least these questions:

1. Are you _____ Male _____ Female?
2. Do you want to marry a virgin? _____ Yes _____ No
3. Do you want to date a virgin now? _____ Yes _____ No
4. Are you a virgin? _____ Yes _____ No
5. Do you want to be a virgin when you get married? _____ Yes _____ No
6. Do you like, or would you like, to have sex on a date? _____ Yes _____ No
7. Do you feel pressured by your friends to "go for it?" _____ Yes _____ No
8. How are you pressured on a date to go beyond what you want?
9. Explain why you like or dislike sex.
10. Would you be happy on a date without sex and only kissing? _____ Yes _____ No

Write a report based on your findings. What surprised you about the difference between guys and girls? Where are all of the virgins coming from if none of the guys want them now, but only later when it's time to marry? Conclude your report with suggestions for dates that don't involve sex that won't lead to sex. Give a five-minute summary of your findings to your class.