



MIDDLE SCHOOL



January 2019

Dear Middle School 'Spot' Parents,

On Sunday, February 3rd, we will be starting our annual relationship teaching series called 'Relationship Goals.' In the course of this month-long series we will talk about all types of relationships...from family and friends...to love and dating. God created us to be in relationship with Him and others, but often relationships can be challenging and confusing. In this series on Sunday mornings we will be discussing relationship with friends, enemies, authority figures, and family. On Wednesday nights we will be embarking on the adventure of talking with our Middle School students about love, dating, sex, and purity. This is one of the most needed and relevant topics for adolescents today. As parents, you are the most influential people in your students' lives, therefore we feel that it is absolutely necessary to fill you in on all of the details. We hope this information can guide you in discussion with your Middle Schooler.

Below is a brief outline for our 'Relationship Goals' series. We will be spending the month of February covering the important topic of relating to others. On Sunday mornings we will meet as a large group and then split off into our normal LifeGroups. On Wednesday nights we will meet together as a whole group on February 6th, but on the nights of February 13th, 20th and 27th we will split into grade and gender specific groups. Each group will discuss almost the same things, but in different ways and with a specific emphasis that is more relevant to each group.

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| <i>Sunday, Feb 3</i> | <i>Friends</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, Feb 6</i> | <i>God's Love</i> |
| <i>Sunday, Feb 10</i> | <i>Enemies</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, Feb 13</i> | <i>Self Image and Respecting Others (Split by Gender and Grade)</i> |
| <i>Sunday, Feb 17</i> | <i>Authority</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, Feb 20</i> | <i>Dating and God's Plan for Sex (Split by Gender and Grade)</i> |
| <i>Sunday, Feb 24</i> | <i>Family</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, Feb 27</i> | <i>Purity and Forgiveness (Split by Gender and Grade)</i> |

On Wednesday, February 6th we will give the students an opportunity to anonymously write down any questions regarding relationships, love, sex, dating, and purity. Although we seek to answer any serious questions, we do our best to work them into our outline of topics that we feel are relevant and important. Our purpose in giving you this outline is twofold: we want you to know what we are covering so that you can follow up with your student and have a starting point for good discussion. Secondly, we understand that not every Middle School student is coming from the same place or the same maturity level. If you feel that some of the content discussed in specific weeks is inappropriate for your child, then create a fun family activity as an alternative for the evening.



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RELATIONSHIP GOALS- WEDNESDAY NIGHT TOPICS IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 6th - Together

BIG IDEA: Only God can fill our void for love, but often we look for love in the wrong places.

Main Passages: Psalm 63:1-5; Proverbs 19:22; 1 Cor. 13:4-8

Topics to cover:

- Where do we look for love? (family, friendships, dating, physical relationships)
- Different Types of Love (Eros, Phileo, Agape)
- True unconditional love is found in our relationship with God.
- What questions do you have about relationships, love, sex, dating, and purity?

Feb. 13th - Split by Gender and Grade

BIG IDEA: Consider others better than yourself.

Main Passages: Gen. 1:26-27; Phil. 2:1-8; 1 Thess. 4:6; 1 Sam. 16:7

Topics to cover:

- Differences between guys and girls
 - Unique roles
- Self-Image: We are made in God's Image (Gen. 1:26-27)
 - Respecting yourself (Healthy self-talk, not injuring yourself, poor eating habits)
 - Media pressures
 - Valuable Character Traits for you and others
 - Why do we feel the need to have a boyfriend/girlfriend?
- How to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ (Phil. 2:1-8, 1 Thess. 4:6)
 - Modesty, Flirting
 - Appropriate friendships
 - How we look at and talk about girls/guys
 - Treating others like objects
- Dating
 - What does it take to have a healthy dating relationship?
 - No Rush- Don't awaken love (Song of Songs 3:5)
 - Motivations in dating
 - Choosing the right person to date- Equally Yoked (2 Cor. 6:14-15)
 - Obeying your parents regarding dating: Their rules are golden! (Ex 20:12)

Feb. 20th - Split by Gender and Grade

BIG IDEA: It is God's will that you be sanctified and have self-control.

Main Passages: 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 2 Cor. 6:14-15; Matt. 19:4-6; Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Matt. 5:27-28

Topics to cover:

- Sex God's Way
 - Sexuality is not bad
 - God wants the best for us! (John 10:10)
- How far is too far?
 - God's definition of sex
 - Sexual immorality is not what God wants for us
 - Becoming one flesh (Matt. 19:4-6; Gen. 2:24)
 - What does it mean to "keep the marriage bed undefiled"? (Heb. 13:4)
 - Setting physical boundaries (1 Thess. 4:3-8, 1 Cor. 6:18-20)



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- Setting emotional/mental boundaries
- Appropriate hugging and touching
- Lust and Internet:
 - The importance of commitment
 - We are not objects (Phil. 2:3-4, 1 Thess. 4:6)
 - Pornography/Lust (Matt. 5:27-28)
 - Inappropriate online chatting, messaging, texting, etc.
- Homosexual issues (Rom. 1:26-28)
- The benefits of sex God's way vs. The dangers of sex society's way
- Practical ways to cope with natural hormones

Feb. 27th - Split by Gender and Grade

BIG IDEA: God created sex in HIS perfect way, and we are to commit to purity.

Main Passages: Ephesians 1:7; John 8:7-11; Col. 3:5, 1 Tim. 4:12; Phil. 4:8; Psalm 119:9

Topics to cover:

- God offers us the best life possible (John 10:10)
- Forgiveness and grace in our mistakes (1 Cor. 6:11)
- Decision for purity (Phil. 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)
- God's AMAZING forgiveness and challenge for Purity (Isaiah 1:18, Ephesians 1:7-8)

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:

- *Teaching your Children Heathy Sexuality*- Jim Burn
- *The Purity Code: God's Plan for Sex and Your Body*- Jim Burns
- *Every Young Woman's Battle*- Shannon Etheridge and Stephen Arterburn
- *Every Young Man's Battle*- Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker

Our desire with this series is for students to make godly and wise decisions regarding relationships, love, sex, dating, and purity (1 Tim. 4:12). We hope this information helps you in your future discussions with your student and allows you to make an informed decision about their participation on Wednesday nights in the month of February. Please contact us if you have any questions about the series.

Thank you and God Bless-

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