

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.

FOR GOD'S SAKE
GROW UP

GROUP GUIDE



ALETHEIA
CHURCH

Week 5

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Would you call yourself a romantic?
Why or why not?
- On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate your need to grow up?
Why?

TRUTH

UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

The Bible has a lot to say about how we should live with regard to romance, whether we're single, dating, or married. Compared to the stories our culture tells us about these things, the gospel is profoundly good news. The gospel is the story that makes sense of romance (and everything else). Growing up means believing that story.

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE

READ: Mark 10:1-9

DISCUSS: What was the motivation for the Pharisees to ask Jesus what they did? To what did Jesus refer in his answer? How does Jesus' response shape our view of marriage, dating, and romance?

Jesus, in one brief quotation from Genesis 1:27, 2:24, and 5:2, makes God's vision for marriage clear. We come to relationships driven by individual taste, emotion, and desire. Jesus' has a different angle, seeing romantic relationships as about something more than those things. Despite how much his answer seems intolerant, culturally backwards, or offensive to our sensibilities, we mustn't try to make Jesus give us the answer we want. That is what the Pharisees did.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR SINGLENES, DATING, AND MARRIAGE

The book of Proverbs helps us grow up in our romantic lives, so we can grow up as disciples of Jesus. Here are seven principles for dating, marriage, and singleness.

- **Principle 1: Date toward marriage.**

READ: Proverbs 5:18, Proverbs 18:22, Mark 10:1-9

DISCUSS: Do you view marriage as a worthy goal? How are serial dating, hook-up culture, and casual sex outside the biblical vision? What is Jesus' understanding of marriage?

- **Principle 2: Date the right person.**

READ: Proverbs 6:23-24, 2

Corinthians 6:14

DISCUSS: As a disciple, what kind of person should you date?

- **Principle 3: Receive your spouse as God's gift.**

READ: Proverbs 19:14, 31:10-11

DISCUSS: How do these proverbs shape your understanding of marriage and the gift of a spouse? How is that different than our cultural story?

- **Principle 4: Be faithful.**

READ: Proverbs 6:27-29

DISCUSS: What is infidelity like, according to this proverb? How have you seen infidelity bring harm?

- **Principle 5: Use words as blessings not weapons.**

READ: Proverbs 21:9, 27:15-16, 18:21

DISCUSS: In dating and marriage specifically, how are we to use words? Why is this so hard?

- **Principle 6: In singleness, stop waiting to live and work your "land."**

READ: Proverbs 12:11

DISCUSS: Why is singleness hard for us? What should we do in singleness?

- **Principle 7: Fight for joy in God.**

READ: Proverbs 14:30, 23:17-18

DISCUSS: How does joy in God destroy the sin of envy? How will you pursue joy in Him?

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

We should desire to experience the “mingling of souls” marriage provides. There’s just one problem, our souls are corrupt. Read Mark 7:20-23 and then pause to reflect.

In the gospel, we find grace for our sinful souls and meaning for romantic relationships. In Mark 10, Jesus quotes from Genesis about the first wedding that opens the story of the Bible. But that relationship was ruined by sin. However, in the final book of the Bible, we find the grand drama of redemption ending with another wedding. Read Revelation 19:6-9.

CHANGE

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What is one way you need to change after today's group study?
- How does the gospel give meaning to your romantic life and redemption for your sins therein?
- What does believing the gospel in your romantic life look like, right now?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray that God would bring conviction for sin and power to change.
- Pray that our church would be a family of holy dating, great marriages, and powerful singleness.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're engaging with the gospel?



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