

Just Dance

*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

WEEK 1

03/26/2017

Note to Leaders: For the first meeting pay particular attention to each of the four tips below that will help your group get started well. In each discussion guide, there will be sermon series questions, discussion questions, some commentary and a guide for concluding with prayer.

Goal: To Connect with others and discuss the Bible's vision for healthy relationships—with God and the opposite sex. In this series, we discover how to recognize and move through life to the unique melody God composed for each of us. We will look at practical ways to find a partner, grow in our relationships and recover from those inevitable missteps.

Connect: Make sure that you are available and ready to welcome people as they arrive. Take some time at the beginning to talk and connect before beginning the discussion.

Facilitate: To best use this guide, as a leader, first read through it on your own and answer the questions prior to the group meeting. This will allow you to have an understanding of the direction the guide is going. Additionally, it will allow you to create flow in the conversation rather than simply reading question after question. You don't have to go through all the questions.

Finishing Strong: Number one complaint of group members, is not ending on time. You don't have to kick people out, but close with prayer on time. This gives them the freedom to leave or hang out.

Introduction

Our relationships often begin to fail when they become focused on ourselves, whether with God or others. Getting in the right relationship therefore requires a transformation of self.

Sermon Questions

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?

Message Notes:

a. Advice is gold

"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." Proverbs 12:15

"Tune your ears to wisdom..." Proverbs 2:2

"Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success." Proverbs 15:22

b. Boundaries are vital

"Good friend, don't forget all I've taught you; take to heart my commands.

They'll help you live a long, long time, a long life lived full and well." Proverbs 3:1,2

"Your laws are my greatest joy!" Psalm 119:24

“Joyful are those who obey his laws...” Psalm 119:2

“Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.” 1 John 5:3

c. Character is king

“Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?” Proverbs 20:6

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” James 5:16

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” Psalm 51:1,2

2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. What did you take away from Judges 14:1-9?

Discussion Questions

1. What were some of the general principles of relationships that John spoke on?
2. Advice, Boundaries and Character highlight the need for individual health and growth. How important is self-awareness and “loving yourself” when it comes to loving someone else? Why?
3. Though counterintuitive, the Christian worldview says the key to building a happy and fulfilling marriage or relationship is through mutual sacrifice. How does the idea, “It’s not about you,” help build a healthy relationship?
4. Timothy Keller, in his book *The Meaning of Marriage*, states that relationships have two dimensions—vertical and horizontal. The purpose of the horizontal—our relationships with others—is fueled by the vertical—our relationship with God. In what ways has your relationship with God affected your relationships with others?

How does the Bible portray a healthy, God-honoring relationship?

5. What happens when our romantic relationships—marriage, or pursuit of marriage—takes precedence over our relationship with God?
6. How do we develop the kind of relationship with God that gets us off on the right foot in our relationships with others?

Prayer Requests

Take a few minutes to go around the room and ask for prayers. Write these down as they are being shared. Additionally, challenge people to begin praying about the step of boldness God may be calling them to during this series. Finally, pray together. You can pray the prayer below or your own prayer that incorporates the requests represented in the group.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, I thank you that you have pursued a relationship with us. In that pursuit, you demonstrate what true love, self-sacrifice, forgiveness look like. Help us to reflect that image in our relationships—with you and those around us. Guide us as we seek to integrate and follow your design for relationships. Heal us where we have fallen and direct us as we continue in the journey. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Closing Logistics

In preparation for the next week, ask people if they would like to order in or have a potluck style dinner. This will help alleviate some of the financial burden and time commitment on your part.