Dating
What does the Bible teach about dating?

Introduction
Have you ever dated someone before? Was that person a Christian?

How would you describe your experience with dating (healthy, unhealthy, Biblical)?

In your opinion, what is the purpose of dating?

A Right Example of Dating: Isaac and Rebekah

Read Genesis 24:1-3; 12-21; 50-51
What was the key component of the servant’s approach to find the woman? (vs. 12-14)

Why do you think it was a successful approach?

How did Rebekah’s family feel about the marriage? Why do you think they reacted in that way? (vs. 50-51)

Application: What we can learn from this example:

Timing: Abraham sought God to know the right time for Isaac to marry. It’s all about God’s timing—not “because everyone else is doing it.”

Trust: The servant was very specific in his prayer while looking for Rebekah. God has a plan. Only pursue a person God sets before you, and act only after much prayer.

A Wrong Example of Dating: David and Bathsheba

Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5; 10-11; 26-27 and 12:15-19
What was David’s first mistake? (vs. 2-5)

David was overcome with lust and got Bathsheba pregnant. What did he do to try to cover up his sin? Why do you think he did this? (vs. 10-11; 15-17)
David is described as "a man after God’s own heart," but how did the Lord feel about his affair with Bathsheba? (vs. 26-27)

What was the consequence of David’s disobedience to the Lord by 1) having an affair, 2) committing murder? (vs. 12:15-19)

Application: What we can learn from this wrong example:

The flesh is weak: In Christ, we are new creations, but we will still be tempted. During these times, we must pray for strength and flee from evil.

(1 Corinthians 10:13-14)

Consequences for disobedience: David repented of his sin and was used by the Lord in great ways, but there were negative consequences for making the bad choice of giving in to his flesh.

Physical Boundaries in Dating
Read the following passages. What do they say we should strive to be like or avoid?
1 Peter 1:13-16 ___________________ Hebrews 13:4 ___________________
1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 ___________________

What to do in the Waiting:
How about becoming the person you are seeking in a dating partner?
Read the following verses. How can you apply them to becoming a person who is in love with God through the process of waiting?

Proverbs 31:10-31 _________________________________________________

(Hint: This passage describes a godly woman. Guys: think of ways this passage can be helpful when looking at a woman you are considering dating)

Proverbs 4:23-27__________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 __________________________________________

Application:
Are you willing to wait on the Lord’s timing to begin dating? What are the benefits of this? ____________________________________________

What will you do during the waiting period? ____________________________

Memorize 1 Peter 1:15-16