



Closer: Relationships both Near and Far

Week 2: The “To Be” List

What we want students to learn: We can’t always have what we want, but we have to grow anyways.

What we want students to do with what they’ve learned: Choose one area, relating to relationships, to grow in over the next month.

Large Group Message Focus: 2 Peter 3:17-18

The Main Point

Happy Valentine’s day! Whether you go all out and dress in pink or refer to it as the “Hallmark Holiday,” recognize that your students have been bombarded with discussions on relationships all day. Some of your students may be single and enduing endless social media pictures of cute couples today. Maybe some of your students are in a relationship, sending you updates of their valentine’s day plans. Or, maybe some have written off Valentine’s day altogether. So, in honor of Valentine’s day, we are going to be talking about romantic relationships tonight. However, we want to give them a space to talk about their very specific relationships questions and concerns with you.

So, following the introduction, tonight will take on the form of a Q&A. Now, we know this can feel a bit intimidating, so we have a few resources to help you specifically. Based on the grade you lead, access the corresponding post below.

Middle School Leaders - <http://orangeblogs.org/xp3students/five-tips-for-talking-to-middle-schoolers-about-sex/>

High School Leaders - <http://leadsmall.org/students/talking-with-high-schoolers-about-sex/>

INTRODUCTION

To kick off group for the night, you and you students are going to watch a brief video. You can access the link below. Copy and paste this into your browser if you are not able to access it directly.

<https://vimeo.com/253465271>

- **Have you ever had any thoughts similar to this? If so, which scene resonated with you the most?**
- **Ask your guys this: What do you think girls normally expect from you?**
 - *Answer can be from the video or just their everyday life.*
- **Ask your girls this: What do you think guys normally expect from you?**
 - *Answer can be from the video or just their everyday life.*

We all have expectations. These expectations can be about relationships, events coming up, how a math test is going to be, or anything else really. But, does it ever seem to hurt more when our expectations for relationships are unmet?

PRAY as you enter your small group time that the Lord would use you to create a safe space where students can talk openly about their successes and struggles when it comes to dating.

LESSON

As mentioned in “The Main Point,” tonight your small group is going to have a chance to have their own Q&A time. No matter what term they use, “dating, talking, exclusive, etc.” the point is many of our students have questions when it comes to being “more than friends” with someone. Ask the following question to begin the conversation.

- **What are some questions you have about dating?**
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LIFE APPLICATION

Our goal is not to “do” all of the right things but to “be” the right person.

- **What is one quality you want to grow in over the next month?**
 - *Ex: forgiving quicker, voicing my thoughts, pursuing her and not playing games, being clear and straight forward, asking for advice and help, etc.*

Over the next month, encourage your students as they both stick to this and make mistakes in this area. Send them a few occasional texts with a prayer typed out, praying over what they committed to.

TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically for the group, that they would have the boldness to grow anyways even when things aren’t going the way they like.

Reminder: The FUSION deadline is TONIGHT! Before your students leave, discuss any final Fusion plans and do anything you can to encourage all of your group to sign up.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of FUSION and THE WEEKEND!