



THE FAMILY OF GOD

Week 4 | Dating in the Family of God

1. Catch Up On Life:

As a church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10, 15).

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing?
- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week? When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- Do you have any practical needs? (If so, please visit our [Needs](#) page)

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- **People:** Who in your life can you be building with right now? What does that look like during this season?
- **Plan:** Are there any rhythms planned (virtual or in-person) that we can invite these friends into? What spiritual conversations do you want to initiate with them soon?
- **Pray:** Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, opportunities to connect, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12, and James 1:22-25).

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

What stood out to you from the sermon?

Have someone read **Proverbs 5:21-23**.

In the sermon, we said much of dating is a wisdom issue. Without wisdom and discipline in dating, we will err on the side of foolishness and hurt ourselves and others.

- Where have you seen positive examples of biblical dating in your life?
- Where have you seen or experienced a lack of wisdom when it comes to dating?

Have someone read **Jeremiah 2:13** and **1 Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1**.

- In the sermon, we discussed the why behind Christians dating (to give you clarity on their character and if God is leading the two of you towards marriage) as well as who Christians are called to date (someone who loves Jesus.)
- What happens when we don't have "the why" and "the how" in mind? For marrieds and singles, where have you seen relationship idolatry get in the way of you pursuing Jesus?

Finally, in the sermon, we gave practical ways to navigate a relationship:

- 1. Seek counsel**
- 2. Communicate clearly**
- 3. Treat each other like family, because in Christ, you are**

Looking at the three, which of the following do you need to grow? (This goes for both singles and married couples.) What's one thing you can put into place to do so?

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing abiding with Jesus this week in Scripture and prayer? (If you haven't yet, consider following along in our Matthew Bible Reading Plan and working through our practice for this series, journaling.)
- What sin do you need to confess to God? What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency" at FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession)

Pray: Close your time together by praying for one another

- Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance
- Pray for God to meet the needs of those in your group
- Pray for the sick and vulnerable at this time of crisis