

outdated

STUDY GUIDE

INTRO

I'm so glad you picked up this book. I encourage you to find a group of people, same gender, and work through these questions together. Be real. Be authentic in your answers. Let's change the landscape of dating.

CHAPTER 1

1. What is your ideal first date?
2. What is the longest period of time you would date someone?
3. What are some characteristics or "features" you look for when dating?
4. Have you been dating with the goal of marriage in mind?
5. Does a successful dating life seem more tangible than a successful marriage? Why?

CHAPTER 2

1. Do you have the gift of singleness?
2. Does this gift change your approach to dating? Why or why not?
3. Is there someone in your life who never married?
4. What are three lies society tells you about singleness?
5. What are three Scriptures to combat those lies?

CHAPTER 3

1. What's your favorite romance movie or book? Why?
2. What are some expectations you've had in relationships?
3. Have you ever met anyone who you thought was "the one"?
4. What are some other red flags to be aware of when dating?
5. In dating, what are some tiny flaws or minor differences you're willing to overlook?

CHAPTER 4

1. How have "beauty standards" affected your dating life?
2. Would you marry someone who doesn't find you physically attractive? Why or why not?
3. What are some characteristics more important than physical features?
4. How much time does it take to understand a person's character?
5. Have your standards changed over time?

CHAPTER 5

1. Have you found yourself addicted to love (or the drama that comes along with it)? How can you remove your dependency on that feeling?
2. It was said that God wants you to have a “boring” marriage. How does that statement resonate with you? How does it conflict with the relationships portrayed on TV and in movies?
3. Why is it important to understand the difference between the feeling of *love* as a noun vs. *love* as a verb? How can your feelings be deceptive?
4. Why is following your heart a bad idea? How has your heart misled you in the past?
5. Retraining your heart is an important step in guarding it. What are two or three practical steps you can take today to start reprogramming your heart?
6. What boundaries do you need to set today in order to guard your heart? How can you help guard the heart of your future (or current) significant other?

CHAPTER 6

1. Have you bought into the myth that you must be perfectly compatible with your future spouse in order for it to work? What is the difference between compatibility and living with them in an understanding way?
2. Answer honestly: What’s on your “list”? What superficial or temporary attributes have been on your wish list for your future spouse? What are some healthy desires you can replace those with?
3. Have you tried using any dating apps in the past? What was your experience like? How can you be wise and cautious if you decide to go that route?
4. While the old saying is “opposites attract,” looking for someone completely different from you can also be harmful. How can you find the difference between complementing one another vs. constantly being in conflict with one another?
5. Why was it said that you can’t be a fully devoted follower of Christ and date a non-Christian at the same time? Why is it so important to be “yoked together”?
6. There were two simple suggestions (one for men and one for women) at the end of the chapter. As you read them, what was your initial reaction? Do you feel ready to take that next step?

CHAPTER 7

1. How has game playing by others hurt you? What games are you guilty of playing yourself?
2. How has playing games in dating fed your insecurities?
3. There is one simple rule if you are tired of playing games: just be honest. Why is this so hard for us sometimes? How can you be more honest in your current or next relationship?
4. Have you found yourself playing the more active or passive role in relationships? Has that helped you or hurt you thus far?
5. Would you say you are an intentional person by nature? How can you date with greater intentionality than you have thus far?
6. Being in community with other Christians is always a good idea. How can dating in community be beneficial to you? Have you ever done it before? What yellow (or red) lights were others able to identify for you that you may have missed on your own?

CHAPTER 8

1. What is your honest perception of sex? How did your upbringing and faith background shape what you believe about sex (both inside and outside of marriage)?
2. Sex outside of marriage carries many consequences. Have you dealt with any of these consequences yourself? If you have, do you believe you can find freedom because of the gospel?
3. Why is it important to understand God's design for sex? Why is it necessary to understand the power of the bonds formed in our brain from sex?
4. Have you succumbed to any of the lies told by pornography and/or masturbation? What are two or three practical steps you can take today toward healing?
5. Do you find yourself constantly butting up against "the line"? Why is it so much better for you to flee sexual immorality than it is to try to get as close to sin as you can?
6. Is there sexual sin in your past that you need to repent from? How can you commit to God's plan for sexuality starting today?

CHAPTER 9

1. Do you believe marriage is permanent and that living with someone before marriage does not prepare you for marriage? Why or why not?
2. What excuses have you heard from couples who want to justify living together before marriage? How would you respond to their justifications?
3. The Bible encourages us to live “above reproach” (1 Tim. 3:2). How does living together before marriage contradict that command?
4. What counsel would you give a friend who asks, “What do you think about me moving in with my significant other?”

CHAPTER 10

1. Have you dated someone longer than you needed or intended? What delayed the break up once you knew you weren't going to marry them?
2. Have you dated someone who “talked the talk” but whose actions said something different? Why is dating a person like that setting yourself up for heartbreak?
3. How do you distinguish between “faults and minor problems” you'll have to forgive and red flags you cannot overlook in a relationship?
4. Is there an ex in your past you've wronged? How will you move toward making peace with them?

CHAPTER 11

1. What's your response to someone who says, regarding a spouse, "You'll know when you know"?
2. If marriage is a decision to be made like any other big decision, how can you make it wisely? What information will you search out to make a wise and informed decision?
3. What are the most important things you need to discuss with your significant other before marriage?
4. What are some good reasons to wait before getting married? How have you experienced the pressure of "having everything together" before you get married?

CHAPTER 12

1. What myths have you believed about marriage?
2. Do you believe in happily ever after? Why or why not?
3. How is marriage a picture of God's love for us?
4. Have you accepted the free gift of salvation Jesus offers? How does this free gift redefine happily ever after?