Preparing Your Kids for Dating

*Parent Meeting Packet Contains:*

- Promotional Poster
- Teaching Plan
- General Information Sheet
- Parent Worksheet
- Parent Resource Page
Preparing Your Kids for Dating
Teaching Plan (1 hour)

Time: 45 Minutes

Equipment Needed: One copy of the Preparing Your Kids for Dating worksheet and the Parent Resource page for each parent present; a chalkboard or dry erase marker board and markers; pens or pencils for each person

Plan: Hand out the parent worksheets and present the Preparing Your Kids for Dating General Information. The parts in bold red are the answers to the blanks on the parent worksheet. After each number (1-3) stop and lead the group in discussion.

After # 1: Hand out the Parent Resource page to each parent. Go over several of the resources, highlighting a few in particular. Encourage parents to mention any books, magazines, or websites, which are not on the resource page that they have read/viewed and would like to recommend.

After # 2: Break parents up into two groups. Have one group brainstorm five things they want their children to remember every time they go on a date. Have the other group brainstorm five things that are definitely not allowed on a date. Give the groups a few minutes to work and then use the marker board to record their answers. Discuss the findings.

After #3: Ask parents to share stories about their first dates. Ask them how things would have been different had their parents taken them on a mock date.

Finish going over the remaining info on the parent worksheet. Ask the following: “Do you think chivalry and respect are ever out of style?”

Allow plenty of time for any discussion and/or questions.

Time: 15 Minutes

Equipment Needed: None

Plan: Prayer. Have a time of concentrated prayer on the issues covered in this lesson. Have parents pray in groups for the following:

➢ That their children would learn how to relate to the opposite sex.
➢ That their children would respect the people they date.
➢ That their children would be respectful of the parents of those they date.
➢ That their children would seek to honor God with their lives.
➢ That their children would not see dating as a chance for physical exploration, but rather as an opportunity to exercise relational skills while building relationships.
Preparing Your Kids for Dating
Parent Resource Page

Books

*Dating, Clues for the Clueless*; Christopher D. Hudson, compiler; Publishers Promise Press

*Every Young Man’s Battle*; Stephen Arterburn; Waterbrook Press

*Passion & Purity*, Elizabeth Elliot; Fleming H. Revell Co.

*Raising a Modern-Day Knight*; Robert Lewis; Focus on the Family Publishing

*How & When to Talk to Your Kids About Sex*; Stanton L. & Brenna B. Jones; NavPress

*Sexual Resolutions*; Paul Kelly; LifeWay

*True Love Waits Takes A Look at Courting, Dating, and Hanging Out*; David Payne; LifeWay

*Pure Joy: God’s Formula for Passionate Living*; Paul Turner, Matt Tullos, and Kristi Wyatt; LifeWay

*Until You Say I Do*; Jay & Diane Strack; LifeWay

*Worth The Wait*; Paul Abner; Worth The Wait Ministries, 405-728-0916

*You Want To Pierce What?*; Walker Moore; Albury Publishing

*How To Stay a Christian in College*; J. Budziszewski; NavPress

*Raising Them Chaste*; Richard C. & Renee Durfield; Bethany House Publishers

*When True Love Doesn’t Wait*; D. Tony Rankin & Richard Ross; LifeWay

Websites:

[www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org)
[www.family.org](http://www.family.org)
Preparing Your Kids for Dating
Parent Worksheet

The sexual revolution (1965-75) was a failure. The courtship methods passed along through tradition that had their roots in that period can only lead to the same failures. So how do you equip your kids to be able to go about dating without coming out with enough scars to rival a briar-patch wrestler?

1. __________ ________ – Don’t expect the dating paradigm of the sexual revolution to be healthy. There are many new ideas about relationships that can help your teenager. I suggest that you read books about dating and courtship that will add new light to your current understanding of premarital relationships.

2. _________ ________ ________ ________ – Before they are old enough to date, begin to let them know things that will be expected of them, especially if the things you expect are not the norm. Look for ________ ________. Point out things that you may see older kids doing that you ________ ________. The ________ is a great teaching place.

3. ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ – Before they go out with the opposite sex, take them on a mock date. I suggest ________ with ________ and ________ with ________. In fact, it’s a good idea to start “A Date with Dad” or “A Date with Mom” at an early age. It becomes a special time together and gives you the opportunity to stealthily equip them for dating relationships.

Dads teach your daughters how to be ______________. Teach them how to recognize a gentleman.

- Open the door for her
- ________ ________ when she approaches
- Has her home ________
- Cares enough to ________ dates
- ________ parents

Tell her if he doesn’t treat her right, to call and you’ll drop everything to come and pick her up. Dads: be sure to take time to teach your sons and/or daughters how to ________ ________ ________ ________.

Moms teach your sons how to respect women.

- Have him open doors
- Teach him the importance of respecting her parents
- Teach him how to creatively plan dates
- Teach him that he is her ________
- Teach him the magic of ________ (Guys don’t inherently understand ________).
Preparing Your Kids For Dating

FOR: Parents of Youth
DATE: _______  TIME: _______  LOCATION: ________________
Preparing Your Kids for Dating
General Information

“Remember your first date? Boy I do. In fact, I think I’m still traumatized by it. I went to pick up my date so unsure of myself because the only things that I knew that I was supposed to do were things that I had heard from my older friends. Looking back I now know that they were as clueless as I was. As much as I love and respect my parents, they never talked to me about how to conduct myself with the opposite sex, leaving me ill-equipped for dating. The sad part is it didn’t stop there. I was clueless for a long time. God bless the girls I dated growing up.” *Paul Abner*

When the question is asked at parent seminars: “How many of you, looking back, were lost as far as knowing how to conduct yourself with the opposite sex?” The hands don’t just casually go up, they fly up and it’s usually unanimous.

The sexual revolution (1965-75) was a failure. The courtship methods passed along through tradition that had their roots in that period can only lead to the same failures. So how do you equip your kids to be able to go about dating without coming out with enough scars to rival a briar-patch wrestler?

1. **Educate Yourself** – Don’t expect the dating paradigm of the sexual revolution to be healthy. There are many new ideas about relationships that can help your teenager. I suggest that you read books about dating and courtship that will add new light to your current understanding of premarital relationships.

2. **Begin To Prepare Them Early** – Before they are old enough to date, begin to let them know things that will be expected of them, especially if the things you expect are not the norm. Look for teachable moments. Point out things that you may see older kids doing that you won’t allow. The mall is a great teaching place.

3. **Take Them on Their First Date** – Before they go out with the opposite sex, take them on a mock date. I suggest girls with Dad and guys with Mom. In fact, it’s a good idea to start “A Date with Dad” or “A Date with Mom” at an early age. It becomes a special time together and gives you the opportunity to stealthily equip them for dating relationships.

Dads teach your daughters how to be respected. Teach them how to recognize a gentleman.

- Open the door for her
- **Stand up** when she approaches
• Has her home on time
• Cares enough to plan dates
• Respects parents

Tell her if he doesn’t treat her right, to call and you’ll drop everything to come and pick her up. Dads: be sure to take time to teach your sons and/or daughters how to change a flat tire.

Moms teach your sons how to respect women.
• Have him open doors
• Teach him the importance of respecting her parents
• Teach him how to creatively plan dates
• Teach him that he is her protector
• Teach him the magic of flowers (Guys don’t inherently understand flowers)