

i kissed dating goodbye

Notes Chapter 1&2

Opening comments

The suggestions on how to date in the book are not for the entire world, but for you who have put your faith in Jesus Christ. That is because God has Lordship over our lives, He is our master.

Chapter 1

1. In the introduction (page 9) the author says that IKDG is not about how to make dating work for you, but how to make your life pleasing to God. Are you interested in exploring this idea?
2. Discuss the culture's idea of "romance" and share the ways you feel tempted to accept the culture's idea of romance instead of the Bible's. (Leader: You might share one way you are tempted to accept it to get things rolling)
3. How does the book describe "Christian Dating?" (16&17, don't have sex, only date Christians)
4. In what ways do you agree with the following statement from chapter one?
"God's lordship in my life doesn't merely tinker with my approach to romance- it completely transforms it. God not only wants me to act differently; He wants me to think different - to view love, purity, and singleness from His perspective, to have a new lifestyle and a new attitude." (pg 18)
5. After breaking up with his girlfriend Josh, the author, asks, "What does it mean to genuinely care about the girls [or boys] I knew?" How would you answer that question?
6. Why does the author say he thinks short-term dating is harmful? Do you agree with him that there must be something better? why or why not?
7. Describe your reaction to Anna's dream (pages 13-14). In what ways does thinking about your wedding day in that way help you to make changes in the way you relate to the opposite gender now at your age?
8. Read Philippians 1:9-10, "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" If you desire something better in relationships, how does this verse challenge your perspective on love?

9. Guys Only: If God's best for our lives includes treating girls as sisters in Christ rather than as potential girlfriends, what does that mean practically?
10. Girls Only: When it comes to feeling-based love, girls are the experts. How can we avoid being led solely by our feelings or emotions in relationships?
11. What do we learn about love in 1 John 4:10-11, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."? How does this look in our relationships?
12. Girls: Do you get the sense that the Christian guys in your life are concerned about protecting your heart, purity, reputation, etc?
13. Guys: Are you concerned about protecting the heart, purity, reputation, etc, of the girls in your lives?
14. What do you think of the following statement on page 19 of your book, "I have no business asking for a girl's heart and exclusive affections if I'm not ready to consider marriage. Until I can do that, I'd only be using that girl to meet my short-term needs, not seeking to bless her for the long term." What do you think he means by short term needs? Do agree with this or do you think it is too extreme? (make them say why they agree or disagree and their answer will give some insight into their current thinking).
15. How about this statement on page 20: what are your thoughts and can you think of specific ways this is true? "By avoiding romantic, one-on-one relationships before God tells me I'm ready, I can better serve girls[or boys] as a friend, and I can remain free to keep my focus on the Lord." Read the next two paragraphs as well (begins with "So even though I'm not romantically attached..." ask what they think, see if you can get them talking.
16. This is not a book about rules to follow, but about getting you to think about what is the best way to live out the relationship we have with the people God has placed in your life. It is a pursuit of rethinking how we relate to the opposite sex in such a way that God will be glorified in our lives. The first step though is understanding why you think how you think? Have movies/Tv/music shaped your view on relationships? If you are honest, have you bought into the idea that you need a boyfriend/girlfriend to be happy so often see in media? Maybe discuss a few movies that push the need of a relationship/hook up. or music (I love listening to Taylor Swift, but she holds to a worldly view of relationships, she is almost saying the pain the breaking up needs to be experienced to really live)

Chapter 2

1. Is two people going out for a good time with no interest in anything more a problem? Does commitment need to be the goal of a romantic relationship? Is this answer different for those who trust in Christ than for those who don't?
2. What was the phrase used over and over in chapter 2? "The Joy of intimacy is the reward of commitment." What does that mean in your own words? What does this look like in your relationships with boys/girls.
3. Even as Christians, we often approach dating with the goal of "figuring out what we'll one day want when we get around to actually committing to one person." How do you feel about this view? Why is this book saying that's still a selfish way to view even "Christian Dating?" (trading physical hookups for emotional ones, p 30-31)
4. Proverbs 3:3 links love and faithfulness (commitment). Have you thought about these two ideas as connected before? (p 31)
5. What does Josh say is the reason he stopped dating? (p 32, 3rd paragraph under "Applying the Principle." What do you think of this reason?
6. The very next paragraph explains his relationships now with girls. What is this philosophy? (p 32) The idea is not to shun or avoid the opposite sex at all. The purpose of not "dating" is to have great relationships that glorify God, not to stay away from girls/boys. As Christians we have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters in Christ to care for, encourage and build up each other. Is this what your relationships with the opposite sex looks like?
7. Then he takes it to another step and doesn't limit the idea of getting more involved with someone than you can commit to to just "dating" them. He says, "But you don't have to go on a date to become inappropriately intimate. You can do that over the phone, via email, or on group dates." (p 33) His idea is not to become legalistic and just not define what you are doing as "dating" but rather to guard your heart and the boy/girl's heart as well before you are ready to commit. Just because you aren't dating or boyfriend/girlfriend doesn't mean you can't cross the line of intimacy.
8. How have these two chapters changed (or have they?) the way you view dating/relationships? What are you hoping to learn more about in this study/book?