

Girls Only

***★ Dating

Additional Project Ideas

Take a trip. Take the girls to a jeweler for a lesson on gemstone and fine metal purity. Call ahead and ask if someone would be available to talk to the girls about the importance of purity and clarity in gemstones. While you're there, let the girls look at wedding and engagement rings. Talk to the girls about the importance of maintaining purity and the special bond of marriage.

Practice date. Have the girls each go on a date with a dad, older brother, uncle, grandfather, or other positive male influence. Talk to parents or send a letter home to organize the date so the girl doesn't have to ask anyone out, but can experience being asked out by her "dad". Make sure the "dads" take the girl out somewhere special and talk about how a date should treat her.

Daydream. Have the girls write out an essay or narrative about their dream date. Have them think about where they'd like to go, what they'd like to do, who pays, how the date treats her, how the night will end, and what he's like. Have the girls share their dream date with an accountability partner.

Ask around. Have the girls interview several mature, Christian couples about their dating experiences. Encourage the girls to ask about how they met, their first date, what they did right in their dating relationship, and what they could have done better. Have each girl share what she learned or found the most interesting.

Collect evidence. Have the girls compile a list of "worst date" stories from the women around them. This will definitely be good for a few laughs!

Research it. Have the girls research the history of dating etiquette. Take the girls to the library and look up archived magazines and articles. Have the girls discuss the difference between dating in different eras and dating today and what we can learn from older traditions.

Invite a guest. Invite a trusted male speaker (or panel of speakers) in to talk about what guys' intentions are in dating and what girls need to know before they start dating. It might be good to invite a youth pastor, senior pastor, and men from a variety of ages to talk to the girls.

Resource Ideas

- *Don't Date Naked* by Michael & Amy Smalley, Tyndale, 2005.
- *Wisdom On...Friends, Dating, & Relationships* by Mark Matlock, Youth Specialties, 2008.
- *Technical Virginity* by Hayley DiMarco, Hungry Planet, 2006.
- *And the Bride Wore White: Seven Secrets to Sexual Purity* by Dannah Gresh, Moody, 1999.
- *Dating* by Hayley DiMarco, Hungry Planet, 2008.

Additional Discussion Questions

Discovery #1

- What is dating?
- What's the point of dating? Does dating prepare you better for marriage or for divorce?
- What can you learn from dating?

Discovery #2

- When will I be ready to date?
- What if you believe you're ready to date before your parents say it's OK?
- Are you ready to date right now? What do you need to do to be ready to date?

Discovery #3

- What qualities should I avoid in a date?
- How can you tell if a guy is really a Christian?
- Why would a guy want to lie to you?

Discovery #4

- What qualities should I look for in a date?
- What do you want your husband to be like? Does God know about this? Does He care?
- Is it OK to date guys who you know aren't "husband material"? What if they're really nice? What if they're really cute?

Discovery #5

- How do I avoid becoming physically involved?
- Why are boundaries important? How should you set boundaries with your boyfriend?
- What is an accountability partner? Why is accountability important? Why can your boyfriend hold you accountable?

Discovery #6

- How do I handle breaking up?
- Have you ever broken up? How did it feel? How did you handle it? Have you had friends who've broken up? How did they feel?
- What can you learn from breaking up?