

6

GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 2

You Can't Take It Back!

August 5, 2023

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV) • “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’ ”

Genesis 1:28 (NIV) • “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’ ”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) • “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Genesis 2:24 (NIV) • “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:18, 19 (NIV) • “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.”

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 2”

Guys and girls are different. We established that fact last week. This week we will talk about appropriate relationships between guys and girls. We will ask the questions: Is dating OK? What does it mean to give your heart to someone? What are some biblical principles about relationships? What are some positive alternatives for building relationships?

While this is a sensitive topic for this developmental stage, you can have a great deal of fun with it if you are willing to let the students laugh. They will, at times, be uncomfortable with this discussion, and it might be best to have the guys and girls separated when you speak about becoming physical in a relationship. We suggest you have a team teach this lesson, with either a husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend (obviously a great deal older), or at least a man and a woman. We suggest a young husband and wife because of the positive role models they can be for your young people.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 2"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Understand that the relationships we have are given to us by God to be cherished and cared for.
2. Discover alternatives to what the world is telling us is OK in dating relationships.
3. Set reasonable boundaries for their relationships.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) white/chalkboard or poster paper, markers/chalk, more than one room, papers and pens; (Activity B) magazines, scissors, poster board, glue, a kitchen timer.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • Handout.

2 BRIDGING

A. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimfaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • As students come in, separate them into a guys and girls seating arrangement. Then, at the start of this part of the lesson, take one group into a different room. Send your female teacher with the girls and your male teacher with the guys. Ask the following questions and have the leaders write down the answers on the board or poster paper.

Get set • The adult with the **girls** will first ask them: **What will you look for in a husband?** and then **What do you/will you look for in a boyfriend?** At the same time, the adult with the boys will ask them: **What will you look for in a wife?** and then **What do you/will you look for in a girlfriend?**

Go • After you have made the list for both questions, bring the students back together and read the lists. It will be interesting to compare the differences. Hopefully you have created an environment that will allow for honest answers and not answers they think you want them to give.

Debriefing • **Ask:** **Why do you think the lists differ between the girls and the guys? How do the requirements for dating partners differ from those for marriage partners? (If the lists do differ.) Why do you think there are differences between the two lists? Are there more differences between the girls' two lists or the guys' two lists? If guys and girls think so differently about the other gender, how can they have relationships that are meaningful and honor God?**

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Give each student a poster board, scissors, and glue (or, if you have a large group, divide them into groups that will work well together). Have a supply of discarded magazines.

Get set • Set the kitchen timer to 10 minutes and have the students create a poster board of magazine cutouts that represent what they most want in a relationship with the other gender.

Go • When the timer sounds, have each student give a short presentation on why they chose what they chose. It will be fascinating to see the decision-making processes appear. (**Alternative 1:** If you feel that it is too much to ask each student to come up and defend their creation, take all the creations, shuffle them, and give them back to the students. No one should have their own. Now you can ask them to give you a presentation on what they think that particular poster board represents. **Alternative 2:** If you feel that it is still too much to ask each student to give a presentation, then mix up the poster boards, and you work with the room to come to a consensus as to what each of the creations represents.)

Debriefing • Ask: How many of you found it difficult to represent appropriate Christian relationships by looking through magazines? How do you think the creators of the magazines want you to look at relationships? How is that like or unlike most relationships in modern society seem to work?

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

(This is a personal story of the author of this lesson. If you have a parallel one, try being transparent with the kids and telling your own story. That will be the most effective story of all.)

The toughest time in my relationship with my wife was the time we talked about the previous relationships we had had. It wasn't fun; it wasn't

interesting; it was painful. Not because the relationships were bad—some were; some weren't. But simply because they had to happen at all.

You see, when my wife and I found each other, we both knew immediately that we wanted to be with each other for the rest of our lives. It was profound for both of us! Both of us had had previous relationships that didn't work out, and so reliving those as we shared was difficult.

We did it because we wanted to make sure we had nothing to hide from each other. I suppose we could have ignored it, or pretended that neither of us had any past dating history, but we wanted to be honest. And to tell you the truth, we both cried a little. You see, when you find that person that you don't want to live without, that person that you don't want to hide anything from, you take some risks. For us, honesty was a risk.

I have often thought about how amazing it would have been if neither of us had had prior baggage. What if we had found each other first and had told no one before that we loved them? How important that word would be if she were the first person I had said it to. (I'm not saying it was a lie when I said it before, but I had never felt the depth of love I had with her!)

The decisions you make now will determine whom you get to be with in the long run. Guard yourselves against impurity and haste when it comes to relationships. You have a wonderful chance to do it right! Don't waste it!

Debriefing • Ask: What do you think is better: Confessing or never having to confess? How do you stay away from making mistakes in relationships? (And is staying away from relationships the only way, or even the best way?) What kind of relationships do you want to have with the other gender? How old do you think you will be when you are ready to take on an exclusive relationship?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Genesis 2:24 states: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" (NIV). This is a powerful statement that shows that God is interested in our finding relationships that can grow and become meaningful in our lives. It is also a strong indication that God set up relationships between men and women (guys and girls) exclusively. If this is true, then we need to have some sort of biblical standard for finding someone to spend the rest of our lives with.

(The Bible is clear in its teachings about heterosexual relationships. This is not the focus of this lesson; however, a strong affirmation of heterosexuality here is not out of bounds. But please be sensitive to anyone's struggle.)

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Ask: Does this story sound familiar in any way? Do you fear you have fallen into the same trap as Joe or Katie did? Was there anything wrong in their relationship? Or is that the typical life span of a teenage relationship? Why are breakups so intense when you date someone exclusively? How can a breakup cause someone to act as Joe did?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

A guy or a girl asks you out on a date. This is not a group activity. Your parents will let you go, but you are not sure if you want to. You like the person, but you don't know whether or not you are interested in dating yet. What should you do?

Some would say you should go just to check it out! Others would say that you shouldn't go. All you have to do is decide. Have you asked yourself what dating means to you? Have you asked yourself what you think is appropriate and acceptable on a date?

Most people get into trouble because they let the circumstances decide their behavior. It is better to decide on the behavior regardless of the circumstances. That is why, even though many of you are not yet dating (hopefully), it is not too soon to decide what you will and will not do when the time does come.

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Give each of the students a handout with the following questions on it.

1. How old is a good age to begin dating?
2. What do you think about group dating?
What are the pros and cons?
3. Why do you need to date at all?
4. What boundaries have you set for when you date?
5. What would you see as a perfect date?
6. What is a good age for getting married?
7. What are some ways you can avoid some of the pitfalls in dating (breaking boundaries, painful breakups, etc.)?
8. Can dating teach us about what we want in a life mate?

Ask the students to talk about their answers for the preceding questions; it should make for lively discussion. If you are able to divide into smaller, same-gender, adult-facilitated groups, it might be even more effective.

Then follow up with the Application Questions to discuss as a group.

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why should people wait to start dating?
2. What are some of the advantages to simply having friends as opposed to having a girlfriend or boyfriend?

3. How can you honor God in all your relationships, whether dating or just friends?
4. What sort of age span should there be between you and someone you are dating?
5. Does it change as you get older?
6. Is it different for guys and girls?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

As you begin to think about where you want to be with this whole dating thing, please take one piece of advice: God wants to be involved in this part of your life just as much as He wants to be involved in every other aspect of your life! What great news! There is nothing you can't allow God to direct in your life. He is with you always. That also means that He is with the one who is out there looking for *you!* God has set aside a person for you; the question is What kind

of person will you be when you meet them? Will you be pure and ready for a relationship with that person, or will you have a great deal of baggage to carry along with you from previous relationships? The decisions you make now determine whom you get to marry when you are ready.

If you, when you made your list, put down that you wanted someone who was pure and full of integrity, you need to make sure you are the same sort of person. Is it fair to ask God for someone whose qualities you admire, but never strive for those qualities yourself? Why not demand the best from someone with whom you are planning to spend time? Surely God made you just the way you are supposed to be, and that is perfect in His sight, sight that is filtered through the life of Jesus Christ!

As we close, ask God for two things: (1) wisdom to make good decisions daily about the relationships in your life; and (2) the patience to wait for the right person to come into your life. With these two things, you are setting yourself up for a wonderful life with the person you choose to live the rest of your life with.



STUDENT LESSON

GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 2 You Can't Take It Back!

August 5, 2023

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 22, Christian Behavior:** "We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. . . . This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 76-78

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK!

Joe was not popular. He wasn't a bad person, just not that outgoing.

He came from a home that was less than perfect. His mom was always working, and he had to take care of his brothers and sisters when she wasn't around. This didn't give Joe much time for a social life. So he was surprised

when Katie, a girl from his school, called and asked him for their math assignment. That one call grew into two calls. Two calls into a tutoring session. And pretty soon Joe and Katie became very good friends. Their friendship was based on wholesome communication, and they set boundaries for their friendship.

However, after about six months Katie broke the relationship. This was devastating to Joe. He really thought he "loved" Katie. When she left, she really broke his heart. He decided that it was better to never let anyone close to him rather than to suffer the pain of a breakup again. It took him years to open up his heart again, and when he finally did, he had a great deal of baggage from his relationship with Katie that he had to work through.

Joe often wondered if he could have avoided all of this by making a different decision. But once a decision is made and action happens, you can't take it back!

When he told his later girlfriend-soon-to-be-fiancé about his relationship with Katie, it was very tough on her. You see, she wanted to be involved with someone who could be completely hers, and not have memories of other people he had loved. Sound crazy? It's not, really. Think about it! Wouldn't you like to be that special someone for your future husband or wife?

Keep in mind that no relationship is more important than your relationship with God.

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Timothy 4:12.
- » A group of you have decided to play miniature golf. Included in the group of people is a guy/girl you really like. At one point in the evening you and this other person find yourselves at the concession stand alone.
- » What do you do? You have committed not to date until you are a few years older. Can you think of any Bible texts that might help you here?

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

- » Read Ephesians 5:1-21; Titus 2:11,12.
- » In everything we do and in all of our relationships we should strive to be good examples of being children of God. We should always want to be our best and not give anyone the opportunity to disparage ours or God's character.
- » How can you build your relationships with others in a way that is pleasing to God?

- » What are some things you can do to be sure you are living according to God's plan in this generation?

- » Unscramble the following verse. This verse is from the New King James Version.
- » righteousness all 3 are times NKJV and those at Psalm who justice keep 106: who does he blessed

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read Philippians 2:15.
- » You are coming into a time that you need to think about what you are going to do about relationships with the other gender. Should you date? Shouldn't you date? How far is too far? What makes a good relationship? What sort of boundaries should you have on your heart and your body?
- » There are many things to think about. While your parents will be directing you in this process, the truth is there are choices you will need to make. In fact, it is important that you begin thinking about and asking questions of yourself in order to prepare for your future relationships. And counsel is available—you can talk to your parents or a trustworthy adult in your life.
- » The good news is this: You have time! Now is the time for you to consider who you are. Think about what you want to do with your life. Then decide on the type of person you want to spend time with. You can begin to keep a mental list (or better yet, write them down) of things you are looking for in someone you might date. Remember, this list will develop over time. There are no princesses needing to be rescued and no knights in shining armor coming to rescue you. Relationships take time to build.
- » Take some time to think, set boundaries, and make some good choices before you begin. You want to have a clear idea of the type of person you may spend time with.

Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Look up the texts and verses, and then match them with the partial verses that are provided on the next page.

Matthew 22:37 (NKJV)
1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)
Philippians 2:15 (NIV)
Matthew 22:39, 40 (NKJV)

_____ “. . . you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ . . .”

_____ “. . . ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

_____ “. . . ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ”

_____ “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit . . . ?”

Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read 1 Corinthians 6:18, 19.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Who you are and what you do now is critical in determining who you will become and whom you will befriend in the future. If you admire in others high moral standards of purity before marriage, then it should be important to you to choose a life of purity now. If you admire individuals who are kind and caring, then you should strive to be kind and caring yourself. You can expect something from someone else only if you are willing to give the same in return. The choice of a special friend is not so much about finding the right person as it is about being the right person.

- » The question of boundaries is an important one to ask yourself. What are your boundaries? It is important that you guard your heart and your feelings until you are mature and responsible enough to ensure the safety and future happiness of your friend. How can your current actions affect your future relationships and your marriage? What is appropriate Christian behavior when entering a relationship with the opposite gender? Most important, do you invite God in your relationships with others? Does He approve of your thoughts, words, and behavior?
- » Remember that true fulfillment and your identity come from being a child of God, not someone’s boyfriend or girlfriend! Relationships are important, but the most important relationship is your friendship with Jesus!

Friday APPLYING

- » Read Philippians 2.
- » Philippians 2 talks of *becoming* pure and blameless. While it is totally God’s work to be perfecting us, our job is to seek to be obedient to Christ in all that we do. That means in all our relationships, but especially in the relationships we have with the other gender.
- » Here is a list you can create to see what kind of person you are, and what kind of person you want to attract: Just fill in the blanks with character traits (honesty, integrity, joyfulness, etc.), and be as honest as you can be!

I am	I want to be	I am looking for

» Now, what steps can you take for three of the character traits you want to build into your life?

Character trait 1 _____

Step 1 _____ Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

Character trait 2 _____

Step 1 _____ Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

Character trait 3 _____

Step 1 _____ Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

