



General Dating Guidelines for your small group by Kris Swiatocho, Director

Below are some guidelines for how to date within a church setting whether its a small group, Sunday school class or ministry. The guidelines are designed to encourage dating but with boundaries and respect for others. Feel free to copy and edit for your own church as applicable giving credit to this ministry. If you think there is something missing that should be added, let me know at Kris@TheSinglesNetwork.org.

Although we do want folks to meet the “one” in church (versus a bar or such), we encourage you to meet THE ONE, our Lord and Savior first. With that being said, here are some ways to keep things focused on Christ, while also pursuing someone to date in Christ.

1. Pray about dating and what it means to you. There is no “dating” in the Bible. There is only friendship of the opposite sex and courtship for marriage. You should only “date” someone because you feel they could make a potential spouse. So all other “dating” should actually be friendship focused. We discourage holding hands, kissing unless its the one you believe God has brought to you to be your spouse.

2. When you first meet someone at one of our events, classes, etc. take the time to get to know them first before pursuing or being pursued.

a. Pray, allowing God to connect you.

b. Be willing to get involved, allowing more time to get to know the person.

c. Attend group dinners/outings/retreats.

Note: I have never met anyone that complained of the extra time they took to get to know the person they wanted to date once they got married. I have also never heard anyone complain that this extra time revealed qualities in a person they found to not be desirable.

3. We discourage asking for anyone’s phone number, friending them on facebook, etc. without some time in getting to know them. Getting to know someone takes time. So many of our single adults are going through a variety of life situations. Our ministry is a safe place for them to not only be apart of but to heal.

4. Be respectful of others. If someone turns you down for a date or doesn’t return your advances, stop pursuing.

5. Be healthy where you are before asking someone out. Now we realize no one is perfect but a part of our goal as a ministry is to help people get healthy. We offer a variety of Bible studies as well as Celebrate Recovery, Divorce Care, Griefshare, Financial Freedom, etc. to help you in getting whole in Christ. You might need to talk with a counselor or pastor before dating.

6. If you are separated, we ask that you do not date. The Bible says until you are divorced (legally and Biblically), you are married. We ask that you wear your wedding ring and communicate to others you are separated.

7. Set up boundaries. Because you do not know anyone that well until you have spent time alone with them or dated them, we encourage boundaries to protect you both. Boundaries include physical touch, to how much you call, to how much time you spend together, etc. It’s also communication of your intentions.

8. Dressing appropriately with modesty draws the right person in Christ. Also, your body language can send messages that you love the Lord or just the opposite sex. Remember, you aren’t dating like the world anymore.

9. When and if you do date, we encourage you to stay in our singles ministry for accountability.

10. Seek a person who is compatible to where you in Christ, believing the way you believe..equally yoked not only in their beliefs but in their goals, dreams and future.