Week 1: The Right Person Myth

In relationships, we often believe if we find the right person it will make everything right. So we ask ourselves, “Is this the right person for me?” Maybe we need to be asking a different question—a question that shifts our focus from seeking the right kind of person to becoming the right kind of person.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of romantic comedies, what movies come to mind?

2. While we know that real life is not like the movies, what is it about romantic movies that is appealing?

3. Have you found yourself believing either of these two myths? If so, which one?
   - **The Right Person Myth:** Once you meet the right person, everything will be all right.
   - **The Promise Myth:** A promise replaces the need for preparation.

   What statements would you make that are more accurate versions of those two myths?

4. Read John 15:1–2, 4–5

   - What does Jesus mean to be “plugged into the vine”?
   - What is the result of doing this, and what would it mean for our current and future relationships?

5. Read John 15:9–10. In this passage, Jesus sums up the commands with one. What is this one command? What does that command look like in a romantic relationship?

6. List three things that come to mind when you think about God’s love for you. What would it look like to extend those same three things to someone else?

Changing Your Mind

The kind of person Jesus leads his followers to become is the kind of person we are looking for and, ultimately, want to become. This week, evaluate the type of person you are looking for and ask yourself, “Am I becoming that type of person?” How can this group help you remain plugged into “the vine”?
Week 2: The Fine Print
If becoming the right kind of person is key to a great relationship, how do you do that? Is there something you can do to prepare? Does it just happen? Sure, we’re supposed to love others, but what does that really mean? Let’s lean in and read the fine print.

Discussion Questions
1. What is something you’ve trained for? What did you do to prepare?
2. Looking at culture, would you say dating is preparing people for great relationships? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–5. What stands out to you from these verses? How would relationships look different if more people loved this way?
4. Relationally, we may run at different paces. When you find yourself at a faster pace, how can you make sure you aren’t leaving the other person behind? What are some indicators that you are pushing rather than accommodating?
5. In your family, was kindness seen as a strength or a weakness? How did you see this play out?
6. Is it hard or easy for you to celebrate those closest to you? What are some ways you can celebrate them this week?
7. Honor is at the heart of every satisfying relationship. What makes you feel honored? What makes those closest to you feel honored?

Changing Your Mind
A promise is no substitute for preparation. If we want to have great relationships, we must do some work. We need to look at ourselves and see where we may need more practice. Where do you have work to do? Patience? Kindness? Public celebration of others? Honor? What is one thing you can do this week to take a step?
Week 3: Five Rules for Dating
If you don’t want a relationship like the majority of relationships, don’t date like the majority of daters. In this message, Andy Stanley gives five rules for dating.

Discussion Questions
1. If you could use one word to describe dating in today’s culture, what would it be?
2. If you find dating to be complicated, why is that?
3. Look over and discuss the five rules Andy gives in this message:

   • **Rule #1. Guys: Ask girls on dates.**
     Ask someone to do something specific on a specific day at a specific time. Clarity is honoring.

   • **Rule #2. Ladies: Agree to dates.**
     Don’t agree to just “hang out.” If he asks you to “hang out,” ask if he has a specific plan in mind.

   • **Rule #3. Don’t ever mistreat anyone,**
     Even if they don’t seem to mind being mistreated. Be truthful. Don’t mislead.

   • **Rule #4. Don’t allow yourself to be mistreated.**
     If you saw a relative being treated the way you are being treated, would you be upset?

   • **Rule #5. Don’t do anything that makes you a liar for life.**
     You are writing your story. Write one you aren’t afraid to be asked about.

Changing Your Mind
It can be easy to blend, bend, and pretend in order to get in or stay in a relationship. But we need to ask ourselves: Am I losing myself in order to do so? If so, it may be worth considering taking a break from dating. Next time around, you’ll be more prepared to exercise your muscles of courage, self-control, honor, and intentionality.
Week 4: When Dreams Can’t Come True
We all have hopes and dreams, but what are we supposed to do when our hearts are broken and our dreams can’t come true? It’s tempting to take matters into our own hands, but is there a better way?

Discussion Questions
1. What is one dream from your childhood that didn’t work out the way you thought it would?

2. Have you ever known someone to respond to broken dreams in a positive way? To what do you think they would attribute their response?

3. The prosperity gospel assumes if you do something for God, God will do something for you. When have you tried to negotiate with God? Explain.

   - What do you notice about David’s behavior as he leads his family out of Jerusalem into the wilderness?
   - How might you view your current circumstances differently if, like David, you stopped negotiating with God and allowed him to work in your life as he wishes?

5. Do you believe there’s a purpose for you even when your dreams can’t come true? Why or why not?

6. What can you practically do this week to remain faithful despite a broken heart or a dream that can’t come true?

Moving Forward
When your heart is broken and dreams can’t come true, that’s the time to lean in, look up, and reach out.

Pray: “I offer you my dreams and plans. Do to me whatever seems good to you. I acknowledge your right to rule. Your will be done in me.”
We all want to be in a great relationship. But great relationships don’t automatically happen because we found the right person or because we made a promise. They happen when we strive to become the person we’re looking for.

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