



Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | October 9, 2022

Begin with prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week in this series, use the **Prayer of Humility** below to help center your time together on God. To do so, send the prayer out to your group (via text, email, GroupMe, etc.) so everyone has access to it. Then, give your group a few moments to pray in silence and respond to the prompts.

“Lord, I ask that You would prepare my heart for our meeting today.”

“Help me to see each member as You see them.”

*Recall the name and face of each individual in the group.
Ask for God’s help to see each one for who they are, without judgment.*

“Help me to hear each member in truth.”

*As you think of each individual, ask God for the ability to listen intently.
Acknowledge any personal struggles or personality conflicts with others.
Talk these struggles or conflicts over with God.
Ask for a way to listen without hindrance.*

“Help me to respond in love.”

*Affirm your desire for God to guide the meeting.
Admit your limitations to fix the problems and struggles of others.
Acknowledge your inability to fully understand any one person’s story.
Ask God to draw each member closer to His love through the meeting.*

Once you’ve finished praying, as the host, pray aloud for your group time.

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.



- Assess the posture you found yourself in as you received Sunday’s message on dating. Did you sense openness in yourself, or were you closed-off? Explain.
- What messages have you heard about dating (from the church or from culture)?
- **Read Proverbs 30:18-19.** As Dan referred to in his sermon, the “way of a man with a young woman” is mysterious and poetic. Reflect with each other on that Scripture and that statement. What imagery does dating evoke for you? How does the mystery point to God’s love and design for our lives?
- If you’re currently dating or seeking a dating relationship, what have been/are your motivations for dating? Is there anything from the sermon that challenged those motivations? If so, explain.
- If you are married, consider your time in dating and reflect on the choices that you made. What choices do you want to celebrate? In what areas do you need to seek God’s healing? What counsel would you offer a loved one seeking a Christ-centered dating relationship?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 6:14.** What is the importance of dating or being married to someone who has the same spiritual maturity and faith as you? Why does Scripture make such a marked distinction between friendships and marriage relationships?
- In his sermon, Dan gave us four things to look for that can transform our perspective on dating (listed below). Whether you’re currently dating or not, which one resonates with you the most? How does it apply to your life currently, whether dating or not? How can these help you walk with a loved one who is dating?
 - Look in the mirror.
 - Look for a love of Jesus.
 - Look for Christian character.
 - Look for wisdom from your community.
- Let’s apply the fourth idea – looking for wisdom from your community – to the other three ideas.
 - **Look in the mirror:** Whether you’re dating or not, how can this group help you look humbly at yourself?
 - **Look for a love of Jesus:** For those who are dating, how can this group help you see the love of Jesus in someone you’re interested in dating?
 - **Look for Christian character:** For those who are dating, are you willing to give this group permission to be involved in your relationships and speak candidly with you about how you and your partner are pursuing Christian character? For those in the group, how can you commit to helping each other live (and date) with character?



Split into gendered accountability groups (10 minutes).

- Are there areas of your current or previous dating experience that you need to share with this group? Take some time to confess those and pray with one another.
- Are there specific ways this group can support you as you seek God's healing?
- Are there specific ways this group can help you look in the mirror and pursue character?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.