



**Big Idea: Unless I'm wholeheartedly pursuing a relationship with Christ, all other relationships will be a hopeless attempt to fill that void.**

*\*All Scriptures are NIV*

Let's be honest, there may be no greater emotional roller coaster than the teenage dating scene.

**[Author Note:** The following is my personal story of the emotional highs and lows of a dating relationship. The goal was to get everyone feeling the weight of the topic in a playful way. You will probably want to bring your own story into this part, but if you can't come up with anything take my story and tell it from a third person perspective. Say something like, "I know about a guy who talks about his first time asking a girl on a date." Take all the "I" and "me" spots and turn them into "he" and "his".]

*I'll never forget the first time I asked a girl on a date. It was my sophomore year. My friends and her friends had talked it out. I had been assured that she would say, "Yes," if I asked, but I was still an absolute wreck. My nerves were so shot. I think I had diarrhea all day. As I walked out of the school to the commons where we'd all hang a bit before heading our separate ways, I was sweating and shaking. I walked up to her, and I think I was able to form sentences (everything went pretty blurry) to ask if she'd be interested in going out to dinner and to a movie that weekend. And she said yes!*

*I'm not going to lie, that drive home from school involved some fist pumps and pounding of my steering wheel. Boyz II Men were crooning from my awesome tape deck (dude, it was the early 90s). I was belting out the lyrics, and the entire world was vibrant and full of colors.*

*We went on that date and actually a few others. She even asked me to the Junior/Senior prom (she was a year older). I was in heaven!!!*

*BUT THEN... two weeks after the prom we were hanging out after school in the same spot I had asked her on the first date. She said to me, "So I just*

*wanted to let you know, David asked me out on a date. I've been thinking, and I think we should see other people. Okay?"*

*I vaguely remember trying to act cool and saying something like, "Umm, yeah, sure. That's cool. I'm okay with that."*

*I'm not going to lie; that drive home also involved some fist pumps and pounding of my steering wheel. I don't remember what was playing on my tape deck, but it would be the 90s equivalent of an Adele song. The world was all grey and food had no taste. I went home and bawled my eyes out into my pillow.*

*You know, I can look back on that all now and laugh. But, man, in the moment it was horrible.*

Have you been there? Have you felt incredible highs of knowing he or she feels the same as you do? Or maybe you have felt the incredible lows of a heartbreak or just hearing the words, "I'm just not interested."

The whole world of love, dating and relationships is a big deal to us. Throw in this little three-letter word called "sex" and it gets really complicated. We want this to be a place where we can talk about these things. For the next four weeks we are going to do just that as we cover relationships, love, sex, and dating and what God has to say about them.

Tonight, we are going to start with relationships. Relationships have always been a huge deal. In fact, the first crisis in human history was a relational crisis. In Genesis 1 and 2 we read the creation story. All throughout this story, we read of God calling the things He created "good." Just a few examples...

[SLIDE]

**Genesis 1:10:**

**God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.**

[SLIDE]

**Genesis 1:12:**

*The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. **And God saw that it was good.***

Actually, in Genesis 1:18 (after creating the sun, moon and stars), 1:21 (after creating the sea creatures) and 1:25 (after creating the land creatures)... each verse ends with the statement, **“And God was that is was good.”**

There was a lot of good stuff going on, but in Genesis 2, something happens that is “not good.” I’m not talking about the whole snake and fruit eating stuff. It’s before that. It came when He created humans.

Check it out in Genesis 2:

[SLIDE]

Genesis 2:7, 15-18

*<sup>7</sup>Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

[SLIDE]

*<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

[SLIDE]

*<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

Did you catch that? In verse 18 God said, “It is not good.” What is not good? That man is lonely. The first human crisis in all creation was loneliness. So, God being God... He came up with a solution.

[SLIDE]

Genesis 2:21-22

*<sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place*

*with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

So, God creates relationship to deal with man's loneliness. And the crazy thing is it gets pretty risqué right away. Let's read on...

[SLIDE]

*Genesis 2:23-25*

<sup>23</sup> *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

<sup>24</sup> *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

<sup>25</sup> *Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

So, Adam first goes all poetic and romantic with statements about the woman. Then, that whole statement in verse 24 is super loaded. When it says man is united to his wife and they become one flesh, it is obviously talking about the bond of marriage. But the whole, "becoming one flesh" deal? Yup! It's talking about sex. And just in case you didn't catch it, they are just running around the garden with no clothes on and no cares in the world.

We are going to really dive into the topic of sex and, more specifically, God's design for how we should handle sex. For now, I just want to pause and make it clear...

God created sex.

He's a big fan of sex.

It's kind of a big deal to Him.

The key for us is learning to approach our sexuality and sexual activity inside the design and plan God had.

Again, we'll talk about that more in weeks to come. Tonight I want to focus on all relationships, not just the boy/girl romantic kind. Here are two thoughts I want to make sure are connecting with you.

First, [SLIDE] *we need relationships*. There is something inside of us that knows it's "not good" to be alone. The first relationship He created was one between a guy and a girl who became husband and wife. It had sexual/romantic part to it. However, that does not mean we have to be in a

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