



***All Scriptures are NIV**

INTRO:

Wow! I'm so glad people actually showed up! I have to be honest, normally when we hold a parent meeting we get two parents of new kids, a couple of deacons, and some person that took a wrong turn. But man, look at this turnout! You guys must really be into sex or something. I think I see a new strategy to all our parents meetings. We're just going to tell you we're are going to be talking about this topic every time!

In all seriousness, I think I get why we're all here. We want to make sure we handle this topic the right way with our kids. Yet, we feel overwhelmed, slightly intimidated, and unsure what the "right" way is. I mean, we all know how to have sex (I have the evidence in the youth room right now), but how do we approach the world of relationships, dating and sexuality with our students in a way that honors God and actually have our kids listen?

I want to be clear. I am not standing up here believing I am a parenting expert... far from it. I also don't want to stand here as the sex-ed. teacher. Trust me... this is not why I signed up for youth ministry. Instead, I'd like to serve as a tour guide through the sexually charged culture our kids are walking through. I'd like to stop and examine certain aspects of this culture and this time in your kids' lives. I'd like to pose some questions and offer some possible tips or tools to disciple your kids toward sexual integrity. I'm intentionally using that phrase "sexual integrity" as our end goal for our kids. We'll talk more about what I mean by that phrase as we continue on our journey. Before we go any further, I'd like to pause and ask the Lord to truly guide our time. Can we pray together?

[Prayer]

[AUTHOR NOTE: If you purchased DYM's *Super Sexy Super Pack* and are doing the *God, Guys & Girls* series simultaneously with this series, it would be a great idea to take a moment before diving into this lesson to explain the flow of that series and how these two series will flow together. If you are looking for good talking points, refer to the SeriesPreview.docx in the Parent Communication folder of the *God, Guys & Girls* series. Also, let

them know that each week/lesson has some level of similarity in focus between the two series. Finally, let them know each week of the *God, Guys & Girls* series has a Big Idea that will be clearly communicated to the students and repeated, and you will be sharing each week's big idea in this series on the respective week/lesson.]

CULTURE:

This week we are going to try to take a step back and talk big picture. Before talking relationships, sex and dating, let's talk about current youth culture. Youth Culture expert Walt Mueller give a great explanation of what I mean by culture:

[SLIDE]

I like to think of culture as the “soup” in which our teenagers swim around and soak every day. The soup’s ingredients include values, attitudes, and behaviors – as well as the media, peer group, language, and so on that express them. To know kids, we must lift the lid on the soup pot and see what’s in the mix.

Walt Mueller

Youth Culture 101

<http://tinyurl.com/j7q7ftg>

I love the mental picture of culture as soup. I think for us to best approach this conversation with our teens, we must become students of the culture, the soup, they are swimming in.

In a sense, we are called to be like the Sons of Issachar. You know them, right? Okay, I didn't either until recently. These guys show up in the midst of one of those classic Old Testament role calls. This time, it's a listing of men in King David's Army. Check out 1 Chronicles 12:23:

[SLIDE]

1 Chronicles 12:23

These are the numbers of the men armed for battle who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him, as the Lord had said:

Then the writer goes into his list, and in verse 32 we read:

[SLIDE]

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1 Chronicles 12:3

from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;

I love that statement, *men who understood the times and knew what to do*. In other words, these guys understood the soup and knew how to swim through it. When I read that and consider you in this room, I think, “What if we had parents who understood the times their kids are growing up in and they knew what their family should do?”

We can become students of culture in a lot of ways. There are some great resources out there, and I’ll be sharing several throughout our time together, but I want to walk us through a simple discussion tonight that helps us consider one of two of our best resources ... our own experiences and each other.

Every one of us in this room was a teenager at one point. Some of us more recently than others, but we all have walked through the fun, freedom, and frustration of almost-but-not-yet adulthood. So we have something incredible to draw upon as we consider how to parent our kids through a sexually charged world.

DISCUSSION TIME:

[**Author Note:** For the discussion, I broke the group down into “families” of 3-4... some parents were there as couples and some were on their own. After giving them about 8 minutes to discuss, I asked for some larger group feedback. Depending on your crowd size and room setup, this exercise will likely look different.]

I want to give you some time to discuss the following:

[SLIDE]

When it comes to adolescent/teen relationships, dating, and sexuality, what is the same as always? What is different?

(After getting feedback)

That was so good. To be honest, what just happened in these groups may be the most valuable thing you take out of our time together. There’s something special that happens when we can interact with others who are

walking the same road. Look, I get it. You are running at breakneck speed as you try to juggle work, your kids, your marriage, your house... and, oh yeah, your own soul. In the midst of this, it becomes very hard to hit the pause button to process and discuss the deeper things we need to focus upon. It's so important to do this, AND when we have opportunity to do that with peers, it becomes invaluable.

You all brought some up some great thoughts. What I'd like to do is highlight a few cultural realities that are similar and different from our teen years that have significant implications on how we are going to parent our kids toward sexual integrity.

WHAT IS THE SAME?

[SLIDE]

Adolescent Growth and Development: Kids are still walking through this through this thing called puberty during their early teen years. Hormones are doing crazy things to their bodies and minds that bring this stuff to the front of the stage. Your little girl isn't just playing princess; she want to be a princess and get swept off her feet by some acne-faced oaf that she somehow perceives as a prince. Your baby boy is actually paying attention to his clothes and his hair. He cares how he smells. He is actually paying attention to girls! It's like they suddenly got plugged into this sexual charger that is boosting that part of them... just like it happened when you were their age.

The big point here is there are large parts of what you're facing with your teenager that are a part of the biological development God put in place years ago. Don't let it freak you out too much!

[SLIDE]

SEXUAL EXPLORATION: Now when I say sexual exploration, you may immediately start thinking of physical actions, but I'm talking about the overall awareness and shaping of the fact that they are sexual beings. As a product of this biological change, your sons and daughters are becoming more aware of their sexuality and how it plays out in their lives.

[SLIDE]

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