

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



THIS SERIES

"We're meant to be." It's how all of our favorite movies, songs, and books talk about love—as if the secret to an amazing relationship is a little bit of destiny, a whole bunch of feelings, and a tiny dash of magic. So it makes sense, when we observe the not-so-perfect, real-life relationships modeled by our friends, parents, and favorite celebrities, that we might start to wonder, "Wait—is *that* how relationships are meant to be?" In this 4-week series, you'll give students a better lens for evaluating their current and future dating relationships as you help them see that the secret to a relationship that's "meant to be" is to **stay close to Jesus, date with purpose, know who you're looking for, and keep sex in the right context.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Staying close to Jesus makes every relationship better.

THE BIBLE

Matthew 22:36-40
Genesis 1:26, 2:18; John 15:9-17

- **What has your experience with dating been so far?**
- **What questions do you have about dating?**
- **Do you think it's true that loving people well starts with loving God well? Explain!**
- **Read John 15:9-17. How could being connected to God influence the way you date?**
- **Which of these three statements do you find most challenging? Why?**
 - 1) If you're hoping a guy or girl will satisfy your loneliness, then you will always feel alone.
 - 2) If you're not at peace with God without a boyfriend or girlfriend, then you won't be at peace with God with one.
 - 3) If you want a great dating relationship, then you first must be okay with not having one.
- **On a scale of 1-5, how lonely do you usually feel without a boyfriend or girlfriend? How at peace with God are you? How content would you be without a boyfriend or girlfriend?**
- **Do you think it's the right time for you to date? Why or why not?**
- **Do you want to date right now? Why or why not?**
- **How do you think you'll know when you're ready to date?**
- **This week, what's one way you plan to prioritize loving God over loving a guy or girl?**