

BIG IDEA

Young adults need to love people sincerely and honor God in all their relationships.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- *Love for others is the second greatest commandment* (Matt. 22:36-40).
- *Loving others means being devoted to them and putting them before ourselves* (Rom. 12:10).
- *Our closest relationships need to be with people of same-hearted devotion to Christ* (2 Cor. 6:14-18).
- *We need godly relationships* (Ecc. 4:9-12).



KEY QUESTIONS YOUR YOUNG ADULT IS ASKING

- Who should I marry?
- How should I think about dating?
- Why am I still single?
- Why do I struggle with loneliness?



AT THIS AGE MOST YOUNG ADULTS WILL ...

- Be greatly affected by the relationship modeled for them by their parents.
- Value committed relationships.
- Desire to make their own decisions about relationships.
- Tend to think they have reached maturity and will want others to treat them as if they are fully grown.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Young adults are beginning to look to the future and make long-term goals, including thoughts about marriage and family.
- They continue to want advice and input from the adults in their lives, but they are looking for this help more in the form of guidance rather than instruction.
- Community is very important to young adults. Many of them have left the comfortable communities of family, church, and teenage friends and are looking for new places to fit in and connect.
- Young adults are wanting to engage in more adult social settings. They are looking to move away from teen activities.



COACHING TIPS

- Be a good listener. Remember you have moved from insisting to suggesting. Be a sounding board as they process new relationships and new social settings.
- Be transparent and honest as you give advice on relationships. Talk about your successes and failures in friendships and dating relationships. Make sure they know you and your spouse's courtship story—the positives and the negatives. In all of these situations, focus on lessons learned rather than the details.
- Be prepared to help pick up pieces from broken relationships. Loving someone always runs the risk of being hurt. And this will happen to your young adult, perhaps in both friendships and romantic relationships. Resist the urge to try to fix situations. Be a good listener and offer godly counsel as she processes her broken heart.
- Be careful not to press or joke about single young adults getting married. Continue to affirm who he is in Christ and stress the need for him to follow God's will, whether single or married. Also be careful not to promise things you can't fulfill, like "I know there's someone out there for you."



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A HUSBAND/WIFE?** Encourage your young adult to create a thoughtful and prayerful list and to keep high standards, even if prospects of this high caliber seem to be slim or non-existent.
- **WHO'S THE HAPPIEST COUPLE YOU KNOW? WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE KEYS TO THEIR SUCCESS?** Use this question to talk about what makes a strong marriage. Perhaps you might even encourage your young adult to talk with the couple she named to get their advice on love and marriage.
- **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS A SINGLE PERSON MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT A MARRIED PERSON COULD NOT DO?** Help your young adult know that being single is not a curse and single people are not second-class citizens. Point out that while single, his opportunities to make an impact for Christ could be expanded and more varied.



SAY OR PRAY

- Pray that your young adult makes close friends with godly people who share a love for Christ and passion for His work.
- But also pray that your young adult builds relationships with those who don't know Christ, and that he would be bold in sharing his faith.
- Pray that whether your young adult gets married or not, she will always find her identity in Christ.