

March 1
WEEK 1

OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

DATES AND TIMES

LIFE & LOVE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD

transcript

SERIES OVERVIEW

Middle School is an interesting time for students. This is especially true when it comes to the topic of sex. It's during middle school that students become aware of the idea, understand some of the details, and sense emotions stirring within. This is also a perplexing time for the parents and adults who support these students during this time. Nervousness, embarrassment, and fear overwhelm many adults as they try to navigate these confusing waters with students, oftentimes causing them to avoid these discussions. That means they end up learning about such an important topic from their friends, who think they know what they're talking about, and culture, whose messages are quite opposite those we find in the Bible. For the rest of the month, we want to talk about "Life and Love in the Middle School World."

March 1

God wants what's best for you.

March 8

Things done in secret have the potential to master us.

March 15

Don't sexualize any relationship.

March 22

Creating boundaries now will set you up for God's best for you later.

TODAY IN LARGE GROUP

Did you know God has an amazing plan for every student? This week, we'll focus on sex from a biblical perspective. For middle schoolers, sexuality is a mysterious subject full of assumptions, misconceptions, and rumors. No one seems to tell them what's really going on. If it's such an important part of life, why is it so hard for them to find the facts? The truth is, sex was made to be good. It was created by God and is an amazing gift with an awesome purpose. However, like so many other things in life, it must be used in the right context. We want students to know that God has lovingly crafted a plan for every one of them and his plan is always better than ours.

Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1–5**:

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing...

BOTTOM LINE

God wants what's best for you.

QUESTION FROM THE STAGE

In your mind, what is the best context for sex? (Marriage? When engaged? Long-term dating? When you love someone? When you're college age? When you want to take it to the next level?)

- Why should we care what God has to say about sex?
- Do you think culture encourages sex before marriage?
Can you think of an example from a song, show, or movie?
- Finish this sentence: If someone is “going too far” with his or her boyfriend/girlfriend, everyone else sees him or her as more _____.
- How many “seasons” are there in life? Which one are you in now?
- What are the activities that middle schoolers should be focusing on during this season?
- How would you describe this season when it comes to the opposite sex?
- In the wrong context, how might sex hurt us physically? Emotionally? Spiritually?
- Think about popular movies, songs, and TV shows. What context do *they* suggest is the best one for sex?
- How might a student who buys into everything pop culture says about sex and relationships get “burned”?

WRAP IT UP

Challenge your students to go home and ask their parents: What do you wish you could go back and tell “middle school you” about dating or sex?