

March 15
WEEK 3

OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

DATES AND TIMES

LIFE & LOVE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD

TRANSIST

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

One of the many tragedies ushered in by Adam and Eve's sin was that our transgressions not only hurt us, but others as well. When this truth is seen in the context of student sexuality, it's easy to recognize the potential hazards of sexualizing a relationship. Students seem to want to accelerate their relationships to the "next level" and the level after that with little regard for what dangers they might be playing with. Today, we want to address that urge to push their relationships to higher levels of intimacy. For many, that doesn't even include "going too far," but is simply the way they talk about the other sex, the type of photos they send to one another, or the language they use over text messages.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1–2:

¹ Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

BOTTOM LINE

Don't sexualize any relationship.

QUESTION FROM THE STAGE

What does it mean to "date" at your school?



Have you ever felt pressure to have a boyfriend? Do you place that pressure on yourself or does it come from your group of friends?



How do the guys/girls in your grade think of girls/guys?



How is that different from a year ago? Two years ago?



Timothy is a young single guy sent to a new church. Paul writes to give him some advice about how to treat the women there. Instead of looking at them as single ladies, what does Paul suggest?



How should girls be treating boys?



Why was it important for Timothy to not sexualize relationships in this case? What was he trying to accomplish?



What dangers might rushing things sexually have on a middle schooler?



What are the steps you see your friends or you taking toward sexualizing a relationship?



What does that look like on social media?
Would you agree that a common first step to pushing a friendship to something else these days is to send and receive pics? What dangers come along with that?

In your mind, what does the ideal relationship with a guy/girl look like today?

WRAP IT UP

Challenge your students to go home and ask their parents this:
What makes a relationship not just good, but great?