

March 22
WEEK 4

OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

DATES AND TIMES

LIFE & LOVE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD

Transit

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

As our students head to group this week, we want them to be thinking about their futures. Middle school students are so “now” focused that it can be hard to get them to look up from their day-to-day lives in order to consider what’s coming down the road at them. The reality is that the issue of physical boundaries is very real for some of them and is going to be very real for the rest of them in the near future. We want to inspire our students to think about the future and what boundaries they are going to be comfortable with now. We all know that waiting until they’re dealing with the issue is too late. Let’s help them create boundaries to ensure they are set up for God’s best later.

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. –Romans 12:2 (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

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

QUESTION FROM THE STAGE

What boundaries do you think are wise and realistic for you to set up?
How will you make sure you take those boundaries seriously?

- Do you know more middle schoolers who are overly cautious about crossing the lines or already crossing lines?
- Why would someone NOT want to create boundaries around their sexual purity?
- Do you think it’s easier to have boundaries or not to have boundaries?
- What does Paul say makes sexual immorality different than other sins?
- Why would someone “flee” from something? (*He knew it was dangerous.*)
- What do you think Paul finds dangerous/harmful about sexual matters outside of the context of marriage?
- What would be the **best** first step for someone who struggles to set guardrails?
- What would be the **best** guardrail for someone who struggles with his or her body image? Pornography? Going too far with a boyfriend/girlfriend?
- When it comes to dating, what guardrails do you need to establish in your life?

WRAP IT UP

Challenge your students to go home and ask their parents: “If you could make one wish for me and who I date in the future, what would it be?”