



PARENT RESOURCE

SEXUALITY & DATING: TOP CHALLENGES & QUESTIONS

In preparation for the Forge Sexuality and Dating series, we asked all of our high school small groups to submit the biggest questions they are wrestling with on the topics of sexuality and dating. Then the groups also identified their biggest challenges in following Jesus on the issues of sexuality and dating.

TOP CHALLENGES

GIRLS

- 1. Maintaining physical boundaries with boyfriend and not getting emotionally attached:** Afraid of drawing the line with sex and him walking away. Needing to feel connected to him at all times.
- 2. Sexual pressures and expectations because of media:** being bombarded with sexual images from the culture, expectations for relationships based off movies, tv, music, etc.
- 3. Controlling my thoughts with lust:** scrolling through social media and staring at hot guys, picturing myself making out with someone.
- 4. Peer pressure or being made fun of for not participating in sexual things or jokes:** being called a “goody goody” because I haven’t gone as far as others.
- 5. Needing wisdom on managing friendships with guys:** feels easy to lead someone on or for the relationship to get too connected/close.
- 6. Trusting God in season of singleness:** being content where I am, instead of constantly dreaming about and desiring a relationship and a future with someone.

BOYS

- 1. Controlling my sexual energy/drive:** masturbation, pornography, it is such a strong desire and it gives a real sense of satisfaction and pleasure.
- 2. Handling moments of temptation:** I know it’s wrong but I feel so weak, and by the time I’ve found myself in a bad spot I usually never stop myself.
- 3. Keeping my thoughts pure:** Smartphone access constantly, social media pushes inappropriate content to me without me looking for it, porn is normalized by t.v. and peers.
- 4. Talking openly:** with community about same sex attraction without it being judgmental. Feeling embarrassed or awkward.
- 5. Seeking affirmation from girls:** so many people are dating and hooking up, feels like a part of being cool and fitting in.

TOP QUESTIONS

*Number of individual students who asked each question

SEX	
34	What exactly is considered sexual sin? (What does the Bible say about sex before marriage? Also what about masturbation, sexual thoughts, pornography?)
12	How do I control my thoughts about sex? (external influences: e.g., social media, pornography, smartphones, and internal influences: e.g., lust, urges)
5	What are some of the consequences of sex before marriage (relationally, spiritually, emotionally, within marriage, etc)?
4	How do you use sex to glorify God when we're older? (It is meant only for procreation, or also for enjoyment?)
DATING	
42	How far is too far in dating? (urges, making out, oral sex)
21	How do I have a healthy dating experience that honors God?
16	At what age/stage of life is it appropriate to start dating?
7	In general, is dating good or bad?
5	Can a girl take the lead/pursue? OR how do I show attraction w/out pursuing?
4	Is it ok to date someone who is less spiritually mature than I am/not a believer?
4	Singleness question: How can I redirect my thinking when I obsess over needing a boyfriend?
GENDER IDENTITY	
14	What makes people question their gender identity? How did this issue come to be?
11	How do we interact with those who don't identify as male/female (when to love, judge, respect, avoid, hold accountable)?
10	What does the Bible say about gender (i.e., is it a sin to identify other than male/female)?
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	
18	Is being LGBTQ a sin? Specifically, is attraction itself (non-heterosexual) a sin, or just the sexual act? What does the bible say about same-sex attraction?
18	How do we talk about same-sex-attraction and gender identity without it feeling judgmental? How do I open up about it if I am struggling? How do I love someone else who is struggling?
8	Is sexual orientation genetic or a choice (i.e., something people can't control or something they choose)? What impulses cause people to have homosexual thoughts or become homosexual? What makes people question their sexual orientation?