

# relationship goals

pt. 2



## OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

## SERIES OVERVIEW

Middle school is an awkward and challenging season for many students to navigate. And the topics of dating and sex are no exception. But we know this subject is too important to avoid. And because we believe that church should be the safest place to talk about anything, we open up a conversation around these topics every spring. For three weeks we'll take a look at what God's plan is for relationships and sex. And through that lens, we'll help students set some *Relationship Goals*.

## LARGE GROUP

One of the many tragedies ushered in by 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 treat relationships in this season.

## SCRIPTURE

*"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity." // 1 Timothy 5:1-2*

## BOTTOM LINE

Don't sexualize any relationship.

## QUESTION FROM STAGE

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

How have you seen relational dynamics in your class change since elementary school? (ex: boys/girls used to all play together and now it's more complicated)

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

### Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Paul writes to Timothy to give him some advice about how to treat different kinds of people. Why do you think he uses family relationships as examples?

How do you think valuing others like people in our own families would change how we treat them?

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

In the talk, Jean challenged us to not get carried away with marriage plans just yet. And instead decide what our relationships should look like for the next year. Do you think that makes our *relationship goals* a little more manageable?

In your mind, what does the ideal guy/girl relationship look like for the next year?

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