

relationship goals

pt. 3



OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

Empty box for notes or activities outside of the 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

There is a private aspect of this subject that students seem to struggle with. It's not because they have a new boyfriend or because the group dared them. No, as a student's sexuality awakens for the first time in these formative years, many students find themselves becoming slaves to private habits, activities, or practices. And those new masters can be destructive and decay the students' understanding of their worth in God's eyes.

SCRIPTURE

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything." // 1 Corinthians 6:12

BOTTOM LINE

Things done in secret have the potential to master us.

QUESTION FROM STAGE

Name a secret that someone might justify by saying, "Yeah, but it doesn't hurt anyone, so it's okay."

What kinds of things do middle schoolers you know keep secret?

Why do we keep secrets?

How does keeping something secret complicate solving the problem?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12

In what areas of life do we use the word "mastered"? Is that the idea Paul wants us to be thinking of when he wrote this verse?

What's another way of saying something "isn't beneficial"?

What types of secret behaviors are the biggest challenges in middle school? (Pornography, sending inappropriate texts/DMs, sending inappropriate photos, app/accounts you aren't supposed to have but do anyway, etc.)

How would you know if your life was being controlled by a secret?

Finish this sentence: "I would be able to fight this temptation a lot better if this small group would help me _____."

WRAP IT UP: Leaders: Remind your students that they can always reach out to you directly to talk about the sensitive issues in life.