

WHEN I GET MARRIED



WHEN I GET MARRIED

Bottom line.

Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever, but pray and seek out someone who shares your faith and values.

Objectives.

For students to:

- Begin to identify some important characteristics of a future spouse
- Discover some Old Testament love stories

Key Passages.

- Genesis 24:12-14
- Genesis 29:22-25
- Ruth 3:1-4

Memory Verse.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Summary.

Finding a mate can be a real challenge, and the Bible is full of love stories that, while romantic, are just not practical. Rather than telling us how to meet people, God gives us the key to choosing the right person to marry - finding someone who will be our spiritual equal.

WHEN I GET MARRIED

OBJECT LESSON

Items needed:

A salt shaker

A small jar of cinnamon

If you go into any nice restaurant, you're going to expect certain things. Nicer restaurants typically have things on the table that we commonly use. For example, you might see a little holder filled with sugar and sweetener. Why would we have those things together? Because people who drink coffee (and there's a lot of them!) usually like to add sugar or sweetener.

You also usually see two seasonings side by side. These two seasonings are the perfect pair, and people who like to add one usually want to add the other. They don't always add the other, but regardless, these two seasonings go together like peanut butter and jelly or peas and carrots. Can you guess what they are?

Show the kids the salt and cinnamon.

Salt and cinnamon!

Ignore the kids' No's and protests for a moment and continue on as if you don't hear them.

Yes, you'll never see salt on a table without cinnamon. Nothing spices up mashed potatoes like salt and cinnamon. Nothing brings meat to life quite like salt and cinnamon. Nothing spices up your vegetables quite like salt and cinnamon. Right?

Play dumb for a moment longer.

What's the matter? Don't you all use salt and cinnamon? They're both spices, right? So why wouldn't you use cinnamon with salt?

Because they don't go together, do they? Cinnamon's a sweet spice. It's not sweet on its own, but paired with sugar, it tastes delicious. Pair it with salt, and it won't taste very

WHEN I GET MARRIED

OBJECT LESSON

good.

You won't find salt and cinnamon together, but you will find salt and pepper. Two different spices, two different kinds of flavor that come together and compliment each other perfectly.

It's a great illustration for marriage, and finding the right partner. Salt and cinnamon are both spices, but they're not equal spices. Salt and pepper make a great pair, and if you let God have control of your dating life, he will lead you to someone who loves the Lord just like you do: the salt to your pepper - or the pepper to your salt.

That is, if you ever decide you want to get married.

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

-2 Corinthians 6:14



WHEN I
GET MARRIED

WHEN I GET MARRIED

ICE BREAKER

Are you ever going to get married?

WHEN I GET MARRIED



LESSON

I have a question for you: how many of you out there want to get married one day? Anybody? How many of you are never, ever in a million years ever going to get married?

Right now I imagine most of you have no thought, no desire whatsoever to get married. So why in the world is our topic today? Because believe it or not, in a few years, those gross, icky boys are going to start looking cute. And those noisy, annoying girls are going to start looking cute as well, guys. By the time you all get to high school, you won't be thinking marriage, you you definitely will be thinking dating. And when that happens, you'll be glad you took some time to find out what God's Word has to say about getting married.

A lot of people older than you look to the Bible with the question, "How do I meet the person of my dreams?" Unfortunately for them, the Bible doesn't tell you HOW to look for a husband or wife. In fact, if you look at the stories in the Bible, you'll find a few ideas for finding a mate that are just plain crazy.

For example, there's the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac's father Abraham decided that he - not Isaac - needed to find a wife for his son. So he sent his most trusted servant to his home town to find a wife for Isaac. You want to know how the servant found a wife?

Read Genesis 24:12-14

How many of you think that's a good way to pick a wife? Symbolically, by looking for a woman who would water his camels, the servant was looking for someone willing to go the extra mile. But who's to say that person wouldn't have a face like a yak? Could you love a girl with a face like a yak? Lucky for Isaac Rebekah was pretty, but I doubt any of you guys plan on trying that yourself.

Here's another one. Jacob, Isaac's son, fell in love with the youngest daughter of a man named Laban, a girl named Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel like crazy, and he agreed to work seven years for Laban so that he could marry Rachel. But look what happens to poor Jacob.

WHEN I GET MARRIED



LESSON

Read Genesis 29:22-25 (at your discretion)

How do you like that story? I don't know what's worse. Is it worse for Jacob to work all that time and get tricked by Laban? Is it worse for Leah, who's now stuck with a man who doesn't love her? Or is it worse for Rachel, who finds out the man she thought was so in love with her couldn't tell the difference between her and her big sister!

I've got one for your girls too. In the book of Ruth, Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi decides to help Ruth hook up with one of Naomi's relatives, a man named Boaz. Listen to how Naomi tells Ruth to woo Boaz.

Read Ruth 3:1-4

The harvest was not just a work day. It was a big party with lots of food and wine. In effect, this is what Naomi was really saying. "Wait until Boaz is passed out (drunk) from the big party, and lay down by his feet where ever you find him." They don't write love stories like they used to, do they?

All of these stories are kind of odd and quirky, but the reality is most love stories are odd and quirky. For every love at first sight story, there's a story of two people who hated each other when they first met but later fell in love. For every blind date that worked out, there are ten that were complete disasters. People today meet on websites, at church, at work, at school, even at the grocery store. There's no right or wrong way to find a spouse, and it usually happens when you least expect it.

There is, however, a right way to judge whether that special someone is the one God meant for you. Paul gives us this verse as a measuring stick for all of us to use in choosing our mate.

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14

What does that mean, unequally yoked? A yoke is a harness made for two oxen. The yoke fits over the shoulders of both animals and is connected by ropes or straps to a

WHEN I GET MARRIED



LESSON

plough. The oxen can then work together to pull the plow across the field.

The farmer wanted to make sure the oxen he used were about equal in size. If he had one large ox and one small ox, what do you think would happen as they moved across the field? The smaller, weaker ox would slow them down and pull them toward the side rather than go straight! But two equally sized oxen could keep the plow straight and keep the farmer moving in the direction he wanted to go.

Paul's not talking about choosing someone your same size. Paul's referring to our spiritual condition. Do not marry someone who does not believe like you do. Don't marry someone who doesn't share your convictions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. Don't marry someone who doesn't share your values and beliefs.

If one of you is spiritually strong and the other is weak, one is going to slow down the other. It will slow you down spiritually. It will hinder your walk with God, and it will affect the way you raise your kids.

Remember the story of Rebekah? The servant looked for a girl who not only met his need, but saw the needs beyond his own thirst. A man or woman who looks to the needs of others, who sees beyond the surface, that's a spouse worth having. And it's what I pray all of you who do, one day, decide to get married will choose.

There's no right or wrong way to meet someone, but there is a right choice when it comes to deciding whom you will share the rest of your life with. Find your equal. Find someone who loves the Lord more than you and always will. Find someone to share your values and your faith, and you will never regret the day you decided that boys - or girls - weren't so icky after all.

WHEN I GET MARRIED



GAME

Here Comes the Bride and Groom

Prep.

Items needed:

A bridal gown

A veil

White shoes

White gloves

A tuxedo - pants, coat, shirt, vest, tie

Dress shoes

Play.

Choose three boys and three girls from the audience. Give the tux and guy's shoes to the boys and the dress and other items to the girls. Explain that a young couple is about to get married and they have to dress the bride and groom. This is a race to see who can get their assigned person dressed first.

The Game.

Bring in the bride and groom. The bride should be in a dress with a modest slip underneath. The groom can be in shorts, tank top, and black socks. (Taking the dress off will compensate for some of the extra clothing items the groom will have.)

Start some music and let the race begin!

WHEN I GET MARRIED



DISCUSSION

Break the ice.

1. Do you know how your mom and dad met? Does anyone care to share that story?

[How did your parents meet? How about you and your spouse? Feel free to share your story as well.]

2. If you were to look for a spouse - not saying you are or will, but IF you were - are there any non-negotiables for you? Sports fan? Not a sports fan? Health nut? Good cook? What would your husband or wife have to have?

Study the story.

3. How did Abraham find a wife for his son Isaac?

4. Why would finding a wife like that be a good idea?

5. Why would that be a bad idea?

6. What happened when Jacob tried to marry Rachel?

7. Whom did you most feel sorry for?

SAY: For the record, Jacob did marry Rachel in addition to Leah. Jacob had 12 sons and 1 daughter. Guess which son was his favorite? Rachel's son Joseph - whose brothers hated him so much, he was sold into slavery!

8. How did Naomi tell Ruth to "woo" Boaz?

9. What do you think people might say today if someone tried what Ruth did?

10. God's word doesn't tell us how we will find our mates, but it gives a standard for choosing whom we will marry. What is that standard?

WHEN I GET MARRIED



DISCUSSION

Live it out.

11. Why is it important to be equally yoked to another believer?
12. What potential problems do you see in marrying someone who doesn't share your faith?

[Make a list as the kids name things, like arguing over church, commitment to Christ, commitment to ministry, raising kids, etc.]

SAY: There are people who think that it's okay to date non-believers in an attempt to win them to Christ. This is often referred to as "missionary dating." People seek out non-believers, then they drag them to church and witness to them as they are dating.

13. What do you think of the idea of missionary dating? What are the good reasons and bad reasons to try it?
14. What can we do to prepare ourselves for finding the right mate?

[Prayer, and becoming the kind of person we want to marry - a dedicated believer. Emphasize the importance of having a strong commitment to Christ as the number one thing that will help you find a godly mate.]

SAY: God gave marriage to bless us with children, and to give us a picture of how Christ loves us. It takes sacrificial giving and hard work. Find a mate that believes in Jesus like you do, and you will find someone willing and able to do that work with you.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of marriage, and thank you for giving us the key to finding the right mate. Help us to prepare our hearts for that day, and when the day comes, give us the wisdom to find our equal match.

In Jesus's name,
Amen