



**FATHER and SON
Curriculum**

#DateDifferently



THE DATING PROJECT *Documentary*

Half of America is single. The way people seek and find love has radically changed. The trends of hanging out, hooking up, texting and social media culture have created a dating shortage. Dating is now “outdated,” yet men and women still seek meaningful relationships. The film follows five single people, ages 18-40, as they search for authentic and meaningful relationships. There is no script. There are no actors. These are real people trying to find love and happiness in an age of swiping left or right.

This curriculum guide has been developed to assist all those who want to restore a dating culture for young people. It will provide them with hope and the tools to find and develop strong, healthy relationships, while learning more about themselves and the society they live in.

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“ A documentary that gives hope and direction to millennials for relationship maturity and meaning.”

~ Sr. Rose Pacatte, National Catholic Reporter

“The most important documentary in recent years ...”

~ Suzanne Venker, Fox News

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INTRODUCTION OF FILM

The Dating Project is a documentary film from Paulist Productions, Family Theater Productions, and Mpower Pictures. This informative documentary offers a perspective on dating versus “hooking up,” and the reasoning behind the value of dating. Though some people think dating is outdated, it’s actually more about having courage, and making meaningful connections, that include respect and taking the time to get to know another person better. The Dating Project suggests a simple solution to dating that removes the anxiety, mystery, and awkwardness of meeting someone, and promotes connecting in a healthy and relaxed way. For more information on **The Dating Project** you can access the website at www.TheDatingProjectMovie.com

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LICENSING

<https://www.outreach.com/Films/Church-Movie-License/The-Dating-Project-54174.aspx>

The Dating Project Movie License includes what you need to legally show the movie at your church, including:

- DVD with full-length **The Dating Project** movie
- An annual **The Dating Project** Movie License for 1 location
- Digital Movie Event Planning Guide
- Digital Resources including web graphics, printable ticket invite, printable bulletin insert template, and PowerPoint slide templates

The Standard License is appropriate for churches with average attendance of 100 to 1,000 people.

*Available in the U.S. & Territories.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY GUIDE/CURRICULUM

As parents of a teenage son and two young adult children, this documentary was impactful. One of our hopes and desires as parents of sons was to find a family and value oriented way to open the eyes and hearts of our boys about the world of “dating”. We were especially concerned about guiding our teens through social media, social pressures, and expectations. We believe that there are hopes and desires in the hearts of most parents for their boys to find that special someone who is kind, respectful, God-loving, and faithful. Here, we offer a guide to help families begin to dialogue and navigate ways to treat and care for themselves, and others, while developing a relationship.

The Dating Project offers an opportunity for dialogue about many dating issues, important information on the “hook up” culture, and the belief system that has been created around this “new” cultural norm. After watching the movie the first time, we knew that this would be a great tool for families to get together for several evenings of open and safe conversation with their middle-schoolers and teens, in particular. So, we developed a simple 2 session guide and process for fathers and sons to gather, either as a family unit, or with other families, for fellowship, watching the movie, and sharing perspectives, hopes, and understandings for life choices and lessons.

This curriculum is a complimentary resource provided by Family Theater Productions and Paulist Productions. Please make copies to share with your team leaders or other potential facilitators, but it may not be published in part or entirety, in public places, or on any websites.

We offer a format that includes the following: *Please note that the ***bold & italic*** print is for the facilitator to say out loud.

- Introductory guide to the gathering
- Opening Prayer
- Opening Activity
- Guide to the session
- Discussion Questions: This will include Basic question(s), Pondering Question(s) and a Life Lesson Activity or Challenge
- Closing remarks and Prayer
- Appendix with worksheets or resource pages and prayers for each session

INVITATION TO FAMILIES

Just like asking someone on a personal date, inviting families to view and dialog about ***The Dating Project*** might feel a bit demanding on their schedules. As you delve through the content and watch the documentary several times, you'll feel more confident about the value of the material and want to spread the word. Lead with your heart and pray about it. Put together a list of families you know who have teens and for whom you desire to share this resource and opportunity. Realize that some will be more open than others. Consider some cannot see beyond their schedules to the important impact this program could have on their whole family. Don't be discouraged. Present it as an opportunity to get statistics and have an open, safe discussion about dating, which is often a difficult interaction for parents and teens. Be positive! Accept anyone who declines, graciously, and leave the door open for a future date.

SESSION 1 – THE DATING PROJECT*(90 - 100 minutes)*

Remember that teens boys, even good Catholic teen boys, will be all over the map when it comes to hooking up and dating. Some will already be hooking up, some will want to be hooking up, some may not be mentally there yet, but will be getting close. Some teens will know what their parents or the Church says is right and wrong, but will need to be **CONVINCED** that hooking up is wrong. To many, hooking up sounds harmless, fun, and the perfect scenario, so ***The Dating Project*** may be the first time they see someone their age question or criticize hooking up.

PRE-MOVIE PREP

Facilitator: Please watch the film a few times prior to the start of inviting and showing the film to families. Take notes for yourself, and reflect on the parts that speak to you, and your hopes for guiding the youth and their parents to understand the value of dating.

At some point in your time together, it may be important for you to share your own dating story. Please take some time to reflect on that and determine what you might want to say.

You will be watching *The Dating Project* Documentary (70 minutes in length)

Preparations before families arrive:

- Set up equipment (computer/DVD/screen) to show the movie and have it ready to go.
- Create an environment for families to comfortably watch a television/projector screen.
- Provide snacks; movie snacks would be fun for this session, since you'll be watching the whole movie; i.e. popcorn, licorice, etc.
- Have name tags, markers and pens available for everyone.
- Make a copy of the Prayer (Appendix 7) and a copy of a Trailer Hitch (Appendix 8).
- Make copies of Parent Family Conversation Guide (Appendix 1)
- Make copies of Youth Family Conversation Guide (Appendix 2)

Facilitator: As people arrive, greet them and show them where the snacks are. Invite them to sit wherever they want. Invite a familiar face (a willing youth) to help with the prayer. Give it to the person so that they can look it over and feel comfortable with it (Appendix 7).

Facilitator: *Thank you, everyone, for coming tonight. We are happy to have you here. We are going to start our evening with prayer. _____ is going to help us with the prayer tonight.*

Opening Prayer:

Thank you, God, for bringing us together to listen to and discuss the world of dating, and allowing us to have honest and safe discussions, while listening and learning with open hearts and minds. Lord, help us see the wonder and sacredness of your creation, especially in each other. Amen.

Opening activity: On a table, display a picture of a trailer hitch. When the youth and adults have had an opportunity to get a snack and sit down, begin below:

Facilitator: *We will be watching a movie called "The Dating Project." So, yes, it's about dating!* Ask the following questions: (Answers will vary)

- ***What does it mean to date?*** If no one answers you can say something like: ***Fathers, you remember dating? What is dating?***
- ***What do you do on dates?***
- ***How many of you are dating someone right now, or have dated?***
(a nod or hand raise is fine)

Facilitator: *You are probably wondering why there is a trailer hitch picture on the table.*

Ask the question: ***What is a trailer hitch used for?*** Expect a variety of answers.

- Tell them: ***Keep your thoughts and ideas about the trailer hitch in mind as you watch the movie.***
- Explain a little bit about what they will be watching (see synopsis), and invite everyone to keep an open mind for a conversation after the movie.

SYNOPSIS

Half of America is single. The way people seek and find love has radically changed. The trends of hanging out, hooking up, texting, and social media culture have created a dating shortage. Dating is now... "outdated," yet men and women still seek meaningful relationships. The film follows five single people, aged 18-40, as they search for authentic and meaningful relationships. There is no script. There are no actors. These are real people trying to find love and happiness in an age of swiping left or right.

I invite you to keep an open mind for a conversation after the movie.

Facilitator: Play Movie

Facilitator: After the movie, it will be important to process the movie through conversation. Depending on how many people are in attendance, you'll want to use the following questions in small group format; 8-10 per table keeping fathers and sons together.

Basic Question for Fathers and Sons:

- ➔ **What are your initial reactions to the movie?**
Expect a variety of answers.

Pondering Questions for Fathers and Sons:

- ➔ **What is your perception or understanding of the hook up culture?**
Leave some time for people to think about this.
- ➔ **Did your opinion change after seeing the movie?**
Answers will vary
- ➔ **When I first saw this, I was surprised that "hooking up" has so many meanings and so many layers to it! For example, making out or kissing is the same as getting each other aroused without having sex and then there's actually having sex...how can all of this be "hooking up"?**
- ➔ **I'm guessing that you figured out why I put the trailer hitch picture on the table? In my mind the "hook up" culture is like a "hook-up, tow, unhook" idea. It's transitional, without commitment. What do you think of that? Is it romantic? Is it the way you want to see a potential girlfriend? Is it the way you would like to be seen?**
Answers will vary. You will have to deal with the fact that some boys will not want to

say, “hey, I don’t see the problem...” in front of their dads or parents. Teens may still not make the connection to how negative it is without further help, but you want to help them come to the conclusion, not tell them what to believe. For example, ask them how they would like their own sister/girl cousin to be treated by someone.

Life Lesson Challenge:

Your challenge this week is twofold:

- 1. Take some time to observe your friends that are into ‘hooking up’ versus those in a traditional dating process or a long-term relationship.***
- 2. Carve out some time as a father and son and have a serious conversation about “hooking up.” Spend some time looking at the consequences of “hooking up.” Parents, please be mindful not to judge, and young men, be honest and seek advice, and know that if you have found yourself in a “hook up” situation before, that does not define who you are today!! Your parents have a lot of wisdom to share and they are your biggest supporters and advocates. Your sincere and honest relationship with each other will be very important for many years to come. Here’s a little guide that can be helpful.***

Pass out Appendix 1 Parent Family Conversation Guide to the parents.

Pass our Appendix 2 Youth Family Conversation Guide to the youth.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for opening our hearts to the beauty of your creation, and realizing the respect we want, and need, to give. We appreciate your unconditional love as we strive to make good dating decisions, and have open and safe conversations on the journey. Bless us this week as we take a new look at how we communicate and maintain respect in our dating journey. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SESSION 2 – THE DATING PROJECT

(approx. 60-75 minutes)

PREP PRIOR TO SESSION

- You will need 1 trophy
- Bring out the trailer hook picture that you used for the first session.
- Get snacks, name tags, markers, plain or loose leaf paper and pens.
- Make copies of Professor Cronin's Levels of Dating (Appendix 3).
- Make copies of The Dating Assignment (Appendix 4).
- Make copies of Session 2 Life Lesson Questions (Appendix 5).
- Make copies of the Trophy page (Appendix 6).
- Make a copy of the Prayers (Appendix 7).

Preparations before families arrive:

- Set up the room for all to see each other. A circle usually works best, but also with the ability to see the TV screen for a short bit of the movie. Cue ***The Dating Project*** to 14:29.
- On a table, display a picture of a trailer hook (same one that you used last time):
Add a trophy to the table.
- Provide snacks, name tags, markers, paper and pens.

Facilitator: As people arrive, greet them and show them where the snacks are, and invite them to sit wherever they want. Invite a familiar face (a willing youth) to help with the prayer. Give it to the person so that they can look it over and feel comfortable with it.

Facilitator: *Thank you, everyone, for coming tonight. We are happy to have you here. We are going to start our evening with prayer. _____ is going to lead our prayer tonight.*

Opening Prayer:

*“Train up a child the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
Prov. 22:6*

“Act like men of strength and courage. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” 1 Cor 16:13-14

Heavenly Father, we thank you for inviting us to come back together to see your words of wisdom about dates and relationships. Help us to clearly see what you have in store for us.

Opening Activity: When the youth and adults have had an opportunity to get a snack and sit down, welcome everyone and ask the following questions:

Facilitator:

- **You were asked to notice the differences and similarities between friends ‘hooking up’ (hook-up, tow, unhook) and those who were dating in a more traditional way, or those who were in a long-term commitment. Please share your experiences and observations:** Answers will vary.
- **Did you notice a difference in the level and type of respect between the two approaches to dating?**

Hold on to these ideas, because we will come back to this in a bit.

Facilitator: **Do you remember Professor Cronin’s Levels of Dating?** (nods, hand raising, etc.)

- **Let’s get into groups of 4-6** (grouping may vary depending on your numbers) **and see how many levels of dating you can remember. You’ll get bonus points for adding specifics.**
Hand out paper for them to write out the different levels of dating.
Allow about 5 minutes.
- **Let’s take a look at Professor Cronin’s Levels of Dating:**
Play Movie at cued time stamp 14:29.
- Hand out a copy of Professor Cronin’s “Levels of Dating Page” (Appendix 3).

Basic Questions: Expect a variety of answers.

- *How many levels did you get correct?*
- *What do you think about the idea of Dr. Cronin's "Levels of Dating?"*
- *Look at your Parent and Youth Family Conversations Guide that we gave you the first night. Please remember this is a safe place for conversation, so I invite you to take 5 minutes and share, as parent and child, on what you think dating is for you. Then, talk about Professor Cronin's Level 1 dating proposal.*

Hand out The Dating Assignment (Appendix 4) and review it as a group.

- *Dads, teach your young man how he should treat his date with respect: arrive early to greet the parents, open the door for his date, stay off your phone, etc. Additionally, talk about how to, kindly, let a woman know if you aren't interested in going out again, as well as how to handle rejection.*

Facilitator: *Did you notice what we added to the table as you came in?* Answers will vary.

- *What are trophies given for?*
- *How might the trophies relate to Level 2 & 3 dating?*

Hand out Appendix 6: Page of Trophies needing labels:

Work on the following questions alone, and then, share with your dad, and dad share with your son. Dads, you can shift the word date to spouse if you want.

- *How would the trophy label of your dating actions read? Stud, cavalier, steady, faith-filled, etc. (write on or next to Trophy 1)*
- *How would the trophy label read of who you envision your date to be? Smart, beautiful, deep, faithful, etc. (write on or next to Trophy 2)*
- *What would your couple trophy label say? (if others looked in on you and your date, what would they say?) Cute, compatible, What?!, committed, faith-filled, etc. (write on or next to Trophy 3)*

Allow 10 minutes for this activity.

Facilitator: After 10 minutes, invite everyone back to focus in the circle. *Let's continue with a few questions on labels. Please share out loud. Remember there's no judgment.*

Basic Questions to Sons:

1. *How do you think the TV, movies, videos you watch, or the video games you play show women or girls? How do you think most guys see girls? How do you see girls? If you haven't really thought about it, ask yourself now.*
2. *What does it mean to treat a woman like she is made in the image and likeness of God?*
3. *What is your impression or experience of dating today? Or of hooking up?*
4. *What are some of the challenges of living your faith when it comes to dating?*
5. *Do you feel peer (or social) pressure to behave or act a certain way in relationships?*
6. *What do you wish dating was like?*

Pondering Questions: Answers will vary.

- *What role do you think drugs, alcohol, and pornography play in the hookup culture?*
- *Why do you think God asks us to keep physical intimacy off the table until marriage?*

Remember, if you have given into the peer pressure of "hooking up" in the past, you can change that notion of yourself. The past does not define you and your future relationships!

How do you think the following Bible verse relates to hidden sins, like pornography, and the impact that has on how we view and approach relationships? "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence." Matthew 23:25

Life Lesson Challenge: (Read the following before handing out Appendix 5)

The following questions are a bit more detailed. Dads, please answer these, as well. They'll bring back some great memories from your dating years. So, if you were to go on a date, consider the following:

- *What qualities do you think are important in a person you want to date?*
- *Dr. Cronin talks about inviting a friend on a date, and how that might change your friendship. What would be the advantage of starting out as friends?*
- *How do you treat a woman with respect and dignity? Why is that important?*
- *What if you are rejected (or 'dumped')? How do you respond? While disappointment is acceptable, anger (especially in action) toward her is not. Why?*
- *Adding a kiss changes the dynamics of the relationship? How?*
- *How does an 'exclusive' relationship change the label of your dating level?*
- *How do you maintain respect in the relationship - and reverence to God - when one wants more intimacy in the relationship than the other?*
- *How does faith help maintain respect and dignity in your relationship?*

Here is a copy of the questions. Please take time to discuss the questions together, as family units. Hand out Appendix 5. Allow about 15 minutes for conversation.

Would anyone like to share? You don't have to get personal if you are uncomfortable. A general comment is fine.

Closing Reflection:

Remember to take your child on a practice date, or talk through what a date should be like. Show them how they should treat their date! This will help them to understand what to expect.

Dads, pray daily for your son's intended spouse.

Young men, thank God in your daily prayer that He is preparing a special someone especially for you.

All, reflect on where you find God in this dating process.

Any thoughts?

Wow! We spent over 2 hours talking about what a date is, how to date, and to what it could lead. Thank you for investing in yourself and your future. Your challenge now, both youth and parent, is to take what you have learned and spread the good news about the value of dating. Your ongoing homework? About a week from now, re-read Appendix 1, and review the Appendix 5 questions together. Remember respect for women, actions that reflect your Christian values, keep the lines of communication open, date honestly, and love deeply!

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for open and giving hearts, for joy and wonder as we reveal ourselves to others with emotion and honesty. Help us to be patient in the process, not only with others, but also with ourselves. Remind us to invite you into our dating search, give us courage, hope, respect, patience, and faith. Help us to remember, in prayer each day, that you have a plan, and to ask that your will be done. Thanks for caring enough to create that special person for each of us! Amen.

APPENDIX 1: Parent Family Conversation Guide

There are important sensitivities in conversations with your kids that need to be defined. Dating and the hook-up culture are sensitive subjects, so direct discussion and questioning about the subject can be intimidating for both parent and child. Please realize that although they may not frequently verbalize it, you are held in high esteem and your presence with each teen at this event is both supportive and embarrassing. With such family dynamics, here are suggestions for these conversations for you to consider. These take time; usually years, not months, but start where you are. Example: You have agreed that your child can call you at any time for any reason if they need to be picked up, no matter their condition, no questions asked, and there is no retribution – physical safety is the primary. Start with physical safety and expand your interactions from there. Verbally remind them, often, that you love and support them. Periodically reread this guide together; it is a continuing process of growth and change.

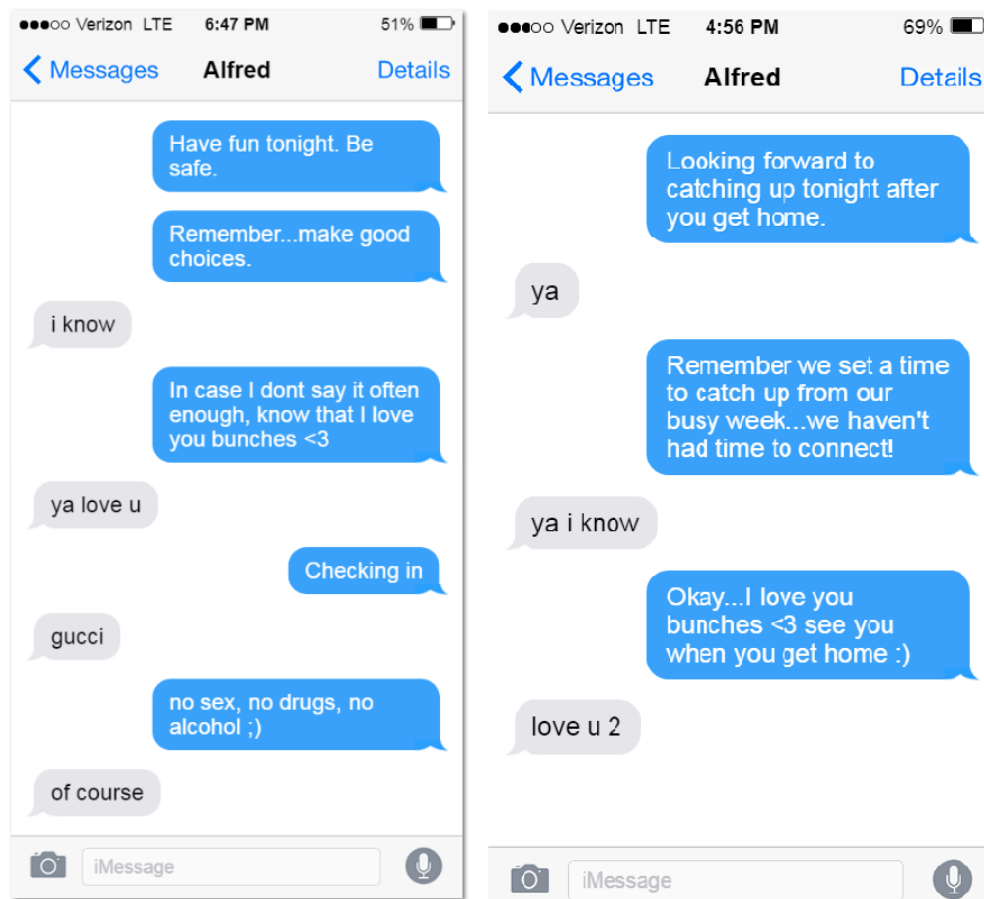
These sessions are designed to allow for parents and youth to have open, honest, and safe conversations. What this means varies from family to family, so we suggest the following:

- Agree that what is shared here, stays here, unless agreed to by both of you.
- Agree that this is a 'safe' environment for both parents and kids to divulge past decisions and experiences without retribution. This goes along with the idea of safety first – divulging discretions should be about what was learned to keep your youth safe in the future, not about punishment for being openly honest about a poor choice. This said, parents be prudent about what you share. Know if your teen is able to keep a secret or can handle a tough truth. For example, if there is a fact about your sexual past that you haven't shared with your wife, either do not share it with your teen-age son, or think very carefully before doing so.
- Agree that points of contention will be noted and discussed outside the session (hopefully, in an equally 'safe' environment). Again, the focus is gaining information and understanding, and lovingly finding a way forward for our dating youth.
- To be sure that you are hearing what you think you are hearing from your child, it may help to (calmly) reiterate what they said to make sure you are 'on the same page.' You might say, "Just so we're on the same page, you went to that party because people were hooking up, and there was a girl there you wanted to hook up with, too?" (This obviously takes some practice and will come more naturally as you keep doing it).
- Agree to pray for each other. They can pray whenever they need to; sometimes it helps to ask them to pray for you. We need to pray for them for discernment, right decision-making, continued faith when things are tough, comfort in trials, and feeling and knowing that we love them and support them. Remember, they will remember most what you model more than what you say.

APPENDIX 2: Youth Family Conversation Guide

Your challenge this week:

1. Take some time to observe your friends that are into 'hooking up' versus those in a traditional dating process or a long-term relationship.
2. Carve out some time as a father and son and have a serious conversation about "hooking up." Spend some time looking at the consequences of "hooking up." Parents, please be mindful not to judge, and young men, be honest and seek advice, and know that if you have found yourself in a "hook up" situation before, that does not define who you are today!! Your parents have a lot of wisdom to share and they are your biggest supporters and advocates. Your sincere and honest relationship with each other will be very important for many years to come. Here's a little guide that can be helpful.



A note from your parents...even though I may not say all of this very often...I'm working on it!!

- I love you more than words can say!
- I am proud of you!
- I believe that you can do whatever you put your heart into!
- I won't totally freak out if you tell me something outrageous...honesty is what I hope for.
- Sometimes I need help understanding; bear with me if I ask you to repeat what you said.
- God invites us to prayer and forgiveness everyday...let's help each other with that.
- I will always be there for you.
- I want to know your dreams and hopes for the future.
- Trust and patience are a process that I am working on.

APPENDIX 3: Levels of Dating

DEVELOPED BY: Professor Kerry Cronin

LEVEL 1 DATING

1. The first three dates. No more than three dates because you should know by then if you're really interested.
2. Meant to gather information about the person to determine the viability of a future relationship.
3. Should last 45-90 minutes.
4. Is a daytime event.
5. No alcohol or physical interaction (other than what Prof. Cronin calls an A-frame hug).

Notes: Reconnaissance work only... information gathering. You shouldn't be talking about, "Wow you know your relationship with your dad seems really complicated. You want to talk to me about that?" That's Level 2 and Level 3 work. That's not Level 1. Additionally, if you're in a relationship and you're still talking about superficial stuff that you talk about in Level 1, something is up, too. You have to know where you are in dating. But, similarly, you have to know where you are in your own emotional journey, right? Navigating dating transitions means you've got to pay attention to what it is you need to attend to right now.

LEVEL 2 DATING

A relationship is going on, but you don't owe the person. Everyone is very responsible for his or her own heart.

Addition: Sex is part of intimate expression, but it is not intimacy. Sex – and anything that prepares the body for sex - is off the table. Along those lines, no marriage privileges, like staying over at each other's apartment/house or traveling together (except to see family). We want you to open yourself to one another in a real way. "Real intimacy can only begin once you know yourself. Since intimacy means "in-to-me-see," how can anyone "see into" you and who you are, your fears, dreams, hopes and desires unless you know who you are and are willing to allow someone in? Experiencing true intimacy begins with being connected to your own heart (Shana Schutte)."

LEVEL 3 DATING

You have discussed a committed relationship with the other person, you are responsible for their feelings, and you "bear the burden of the other person's heart." In this stage, you now take responsibility for the other person's well-being.

Addition: Sex – and anything that prepares the body for sex - is off the table. Along those lines, no marriage privileges, like staying over at each other's apartment/house or traveling together (except to see family). The intimacy you are to pursue "involves the mixing of your life with another's, a mingling of souls, a sharing of hearts. (Shana Schute)."

LEVEL 4 DATING

"Our souls crave intimacy"—Erwin Raphael McManus

Marriage. Consummate the relationship and continuing dating.

APPENDIX 4: The Dating Assignment

THE **DATING** ASSIGNMENT

HERE ARE THE RULES:

1 Ask **IN-PERSON**

No text messages. No Facebook. No Snapchat. No Instagram.

Face to face. Eye to eye. IRL.

2 Within **THREE DAYS**

Waiting longer creates unnecessary anxiety, invites drama, and sets the stage for unsolicited (or worse, solicited) opinions and advice.

3 A Romantic **INTEREST**

Pick someone that catches your eye. A romantic interest.

Think possible, not soulmate.

4 Somebody **NEW**

This should not be a date with a person whom you've dated before.

5 Be **OPEN & HONEST**

Avoid the dreaded "acci-date."

While you do not have to use the word "date," make sure you're clear this is a date.

6 Only **45-90 MINS**

Leave 'em wanting more--and give yourself a hard out if you don't find yourself wanting more.

7 Make **A PLAN**

No "So...what do you want to do?" Take initiative to plan the date. Show you respect their time.

8 You **ASK**, You **PAY**

Make it clear: This person is worth the money--and you're worth the investment, too.

9 But **ONLY \$10**

You're not a spendthrift, but, geez, you're not royalty, either.

Unless you are. Then still \$10.

10 No **TOUCHY**

How far is too far? An "A-frame" hug at the end of the date is far enough.

11 Tell **THREE PEOPLE**

Cold feet happen, but it's less likely if you've got support. Only three teammates, though. TMZ is everywhere!

12 Go **ALONE**

You've got support, but for the love of Pete, no wingman, best friend, or group dates.

APPENDIX 5: Life Lesson Challenge

The following questions are a bit more detailed. Parents, please answer these, as well. They'll bring back some great memories from your dating years.

So, if you were to go on a date, consider the following:

- *What qualities do you think are important in a person you want to date?*
- *Dr. Cronin talks about inviting a friend on a date and how that might change your friendship. What would be the advantage of starting out as friends?*
- *How do you treat a woman with respect and dignity? Why is that important?*
- *What if you are rejected (or 'dumped')? How do you respond? While disappointment is acceptable, anger (especially in action) toward her is not. Why?*
- *Adding a kiss changes the dynamics of the relationship? How?*
- *How does an 'exclusive' relationship change the label of your dating level?*
- *How do you maintain respect in the relationship when one wants more intimacy in the relationship than the other?*
- *How does faith help maintain respect and dignity in your relationship?*

Periodically, review these questions; it is a continuing process of growth and change.

APPENDIX 6



APPENDIX 7: Prayers

Session 1

Opening Prayer:

Thank you, God, for bringing us together to listen to and discuss the world of dating, and allowing us to have honest and safe discussions, while listening and learning with open hearts and minds. Lord, help us see the wonder and sacredness of your creation. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Thank you Lord for opening our eyes to the beauty of your creation and realizing the respect we want, and need, to give. We appreciate your unconditional love as we strive to make good dating decisions, and have open and safe conversations on the journey. Bless us this week as we take a new look at how we communicate and maintain respect in our dating journey. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Session 2

Opening Prayer:

"Train up a child the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6

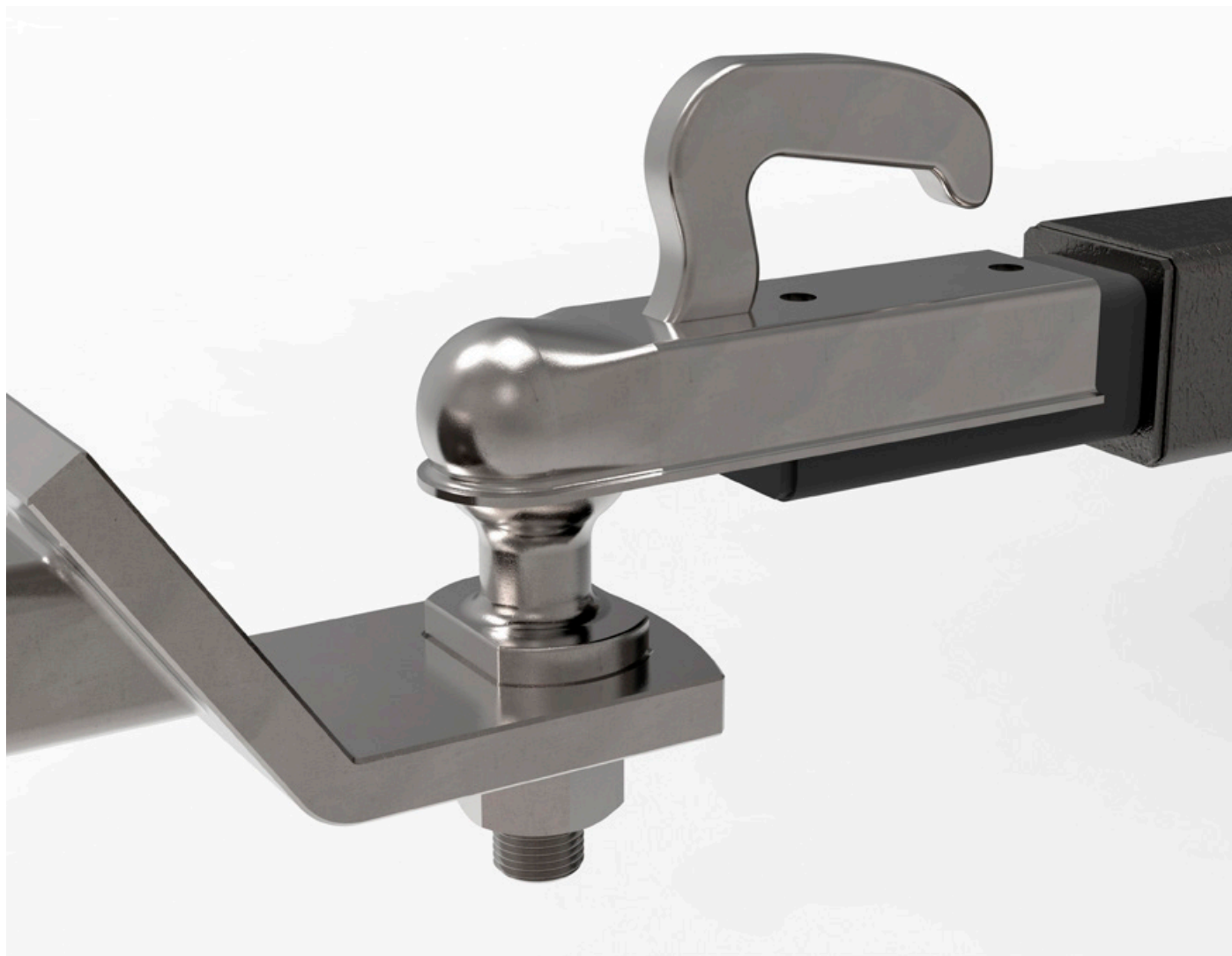
"Act like men of strength and courage. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love". 1 Cor 16:13-14

Heavenly Father, we thank you for inviting us to come back together to see your words of wisdom about dates and relationships. Help us to clearly see what you have in store for us.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for open and giving hearts, for joy and wonder, as we reveal ourselves to others with emotion and honesty. Help us to be patient in the process, not only with others, but also, with ourselves. Remind us to invite you into our dating search for courage, hope, patience, and faith. Help us to remember, in prayer each day, that you have a plan, and to ask that your will be done. Thanks for caring enough to create that special person for each of us! Amen.

APPENDIX 8: Trailer Hitch



ABOUT

THE DATING PROJECT was created in partnership with Paulist Productions, and Mpower Pictures in association with Family Theater Productions, and is distributed by Pure Flix.

ABOUT PAULIST PRODUCTIONS

Paulist Productions was founded over 50 years ago to create thought provoking entertainment that explores the human condition, and has produced award-winning documentaries, feature films, television, and TV movies addressing pressing social issues and important moral questions. Paulist has provided programming for Paramount, Warner Bros., CBS, ABC, A&E, the History Channel, Hallmark Hall of Fame, and UPtv. In a time of rapid change and declining options for family viewing, Paulist is dedicated to developing positive programming with meaningful content.

ABOUT MPOWER PICTURES

As a production company, Mpower Pictures is dedicated to “empowering” both the artist and the audience by telling stories that are compelling, bold, and uncompromising. Steve McEveety, CEO (The Passion of the Christ, Braveheart), John Shepherd (Bobby Jones, The Ultimate Gift), Todd Burns and David Segel launched Mpower in 2007 to make movies that profoundly impact culture, while inspiring and entertaining audiences. The company was awarded Heartland Film Festival's "Truly Moving Picture" award for its feature films Snowmen and The Stoning of Soraya M.

ABOUT FAMILY THEATER PRODUCTIONS

Family Theater Productions tells stories that inspire, entertain and inform. Founded in 1947 by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and headquartered on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, Family Theater Productions is an award-winning producer of family-friendly and faith-based media for radio, film, television and digital media. The Head of Production is Father David Guffey, C.S.C. Learn more at FamilyTheater.org, or on Facebook, at FamilyTheater.org

CURRICULUMS: This curriculum was developed by Family Theater Productions. You can download one or all five versions -- Family, High School, College, Young Adults and Fathers & Sons -- at www.TheDatingProjectMovie.com



The Dating Project Curriculums

Guide the conversation. Bring the film to life.

Become a part of the movement to revive, reclaim, and restore dating.

Curriculums for all groups:

Family | High School | College | Young Adult | Father and Son

Each curriculum includes outlines, talking points with guided prompts for activities and questions to ignite discussion. Designed to serve the needs of all groups, there are one session or multi-session options.

Download the curriculums for free at **TheDatingProjectMovie.com**

Obtain a movie license at **Outreach.com** and search The Dating Project.

Dating should be a manifestation of the good, the true and the beautiful.

Help shape change.

#DateDifferently



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