



**YOUNG ADULT
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 Dating is now “outdated,” yet men and women still seek meaningful relationships.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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To the Facilitator:

The Dating Project is more than a film. This is a movement. It is a movement to revive, reclaim, and restore dating. A big task, yes, but a most worthy one. Dating can, and should be, a manifestation of *the good, the true, and the beautiful* – the universal human experience of ethics, logic, and aesthetics.

The program consists of four sessions. Each session lasts 90 minutes. As the facilitator, you play a vital role. You might be asking: Why The Dating Project? Who is the audience? How does this work? What can be expected?

Why?

The hook-up culture can mean anything from a random meeting to an intimate encounter. This is harmful, and it must change. The Dating Project aspires to be a constructive tool for change.

Who?

This curriculum is intended for recent college graduates and young professionals, 21 to 40 years old.

How?

The first session presents the film. The remaining three sessions utilize scenes from the film, present prepared questions, and enable small group discussions (approx. 8 people per table).

What?

The sessions facilitate conversations concerning dating. They also provide an opportunity for young adults to meet, discuss, and propose strategies and solutions.

The Bottom Line

As a facilitator, you are part of the movement. You are guiding a process that seeks to inspire a culture of respect, dignity, and joy. It is critical that you ignite discussion, particularly in the small groups. You will need help with this process. It will be vital to the sessions to have engaging, approachable collaborators to lead small groups and guide discussions throughout the sessions. Welcome to the team, and thank you for participating!

Licensing Required to Show the Film:

Please visit this website to purchase the license:

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

Included:

- *The Dating Project* DVD
- Digital Movie Event Planning Guide
- Digital Resources including –
 - printable ticket invite,
 - printable bulletin insert template,
 - PowerPoint slide templates, and
 - web graphics.

Curriculum Overview:

The young adult curriculum consists of four sessions. Session 1 includes a screening of the film and is approximately 90-120 minutes. Sessions 2, 3, and 4 are 90 minutes in length. We recommend scheduling the sessions approximately one week apart.

Other General Notes:

- ➔ Event marketing should make clear:
 - the start/end times,
 - location, and
 - contact information.
- ➔ This curriculum can be utilized for small, medium, and large groups.
- ➔ We recommend a large group setting to maximize opportunities for people to meet.
- ➔ We recommend collaborating with other young adult groups in the area, including Young Professional Organizations, Church Groups, Community Groups, Professional Groups, etc.
- ➔ Below is a list of groups for your collaboration as you build your marketing plan and publicize the opportunity to participate in The Dating Project through your organization:
 - Alumni Associations for Colleges
 - Alumni Offices for High Schools
 - Church Bulletins
 - <https://www.wya.net/>

- o <https://www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org/>
 - o <https://www.ypo.org/>
 - o <https://www.focus.org/>
 - o <https://studentsforlife.org/>
 - o <http://www.physiciansforlife.org/>
- ➔ Offer to be interviewed by your local secular, Catholic and/or Christian radio programs.
- ➔ Ask to place the meetings on the community calendar, website, etc.

Room Needs:

- DVD/projection screen for large group to watch film and clips
- Chairs for attendees
- A table near the entrance door for the welcome materials

SESSION 1 – THE DATING PROJECT

(90 - 120 minutes)

6:45 PM: Reception

- When participants arrive, have the welcoming committee direct them to the sign-in table.
- Provide attendees with a nametag.
- Ideally, have several laptops and multiple stations so attendees can type in their name and email address. This will facilitate registration and follow-up.

7:00 PM: Facilitator's Welcome- Say aloud what is in **bold**.

Welcome to the Dating Project!

During the next four sessions, we will explore the challenges associated with dating and propose solutions. **Society seems to have lost the script on dating. How did this happen? In a culture saturated by technology, everyone is messaging, but are we communicating?**

We text, but do we know the context? In Latin, *con* means "with, together, thoroughly." Dating is about taking time to be *with*, to be *together*, to be *thoroughly* attentive so as to discern one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

Does your date *compliment* you – as in *complete* you; as in *complementarity*? If not, move on and free that person to move on.

What is The Dating Project?

The Dating Project is a movement to redeem dating, and ultimately, to strengthen families. In a few minutes, we will watch a film entitled *The Dating Project*. Here's the synopsis:

Half of America is single. The way people seek and find love has radically changed. The hook-up culture, texting, and social media have profoundly altered the dating landscape. Traditional dating has become "outdated," yet men and women still seek meaningful relationships. People are frustrated in love, but does anyone really know how to connect in today's virtual world?

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.

All human beings long for meaning. Ancient philosophers refer to this as the search for *the good (ethics), the true (logic), and the beautiful (aesthetics)*. The Dating Project contributes to this search by equipping singles for healthy dating.

When you complete this program, you will be prepared to date with a new outlook. You will have a fresh perspective, and you will proceed with renewed confidence.

You will be empowered by what you've learned. You will bring your best self.

Your mission:

- Envision and build a dating culture rooted in respect,
- be kind and attentive,
- listen and laugh,
- pause and pray,
- be thoughtful,
- be considerate, and
- be and have fun.

The curriculum is the catalyst. You are the change.

7:05 PM: Watch the Film

8:00 PM: Q & A and Closing Comments

- Asking Someone Out on a Date
- Preparing for Session 2

Thank you for your attention during the film. I would love to hear your reactions and any feelings you had while watching it. Give a few minutes for response/discussion.

Just as Professor Cronin had an assignment for her students, we have an assignment for you – in fact, the same assignment. By the next session, ask someone out on a date.

Pass out the document entitled *The Dating Assignment*. (See Appendix, Session 1 Handout)

This sheet lists 12 steps. They are all important, but I want to draw your attention to four:

- **You must ask in-person — a text does not count. See Step 1.**
- **You have three days to ask someone. That's 72 hours — We want to help you avoid the temptation to procrastinate. See Step 2.**
- **The "ask" must include a proposed time and place for the date. See Step 7.**
- **Spend no more than \$10. This will help you determine the place. You can afford a cup of coffee, but not a meal; an ice cream, but not a crème brûlée flambée. You get the idea. Something simple. The conversation is the focus. See Step 9.**
- **Finally, the date should not last longer than 90 minutes; 45 to 60 minutes is optimal.**

Any thoughts? Fears? Give a few minutes for response/discussion. **Enjoy. You can do this!**

8:45 PM: Conclude

- ➔ Collect name tags
- ➔ Encourage the participants to bring friends to the next session, and let them know how their friends can watch *The Dating Project* movie prior to the next session. (See below)

❖ Organizer Notes on Session 1:

- o Place the attendees' names and emails in a spreadsheet
- o Create small group discussion teams assigned to tables
- o Limit the group size to 8 or less; ideally 4 girls and 4 guys
- o Create different combinations of people for each table every week
- o Strive to ensure that each participant meets as many people as possible

- o If there is interest, consider offering a second viewing of The Dating Project
- o Consider having extra DVDs of The Dating Project for purchase/rental/borrowing

SESSION 2 – HOW DID THE ASK GO?

(90 minutes)

6:45 PM: Reception

- Organize name tags alphabetically so that when attendees arrive, they can easily retrieve their name tag. Consider creating three sections with signs: A-E, F-N, and O-Z.
 - o Each name tag should have three colors corresponding to the small group that each person will join for the remaining sessions.
 - o The goal – meet as many people as possible.
 - o Provide a different combination for each small group at each session.
- The sequence on each name tag should be different.
- Have a sign at each table corresponding to one of the colors.
- Direct the participants to the table that corresponds to their first color.

7:00 PM: Facilitator's Welcome- Say aloud what is in **bold**

- > Confirm that everyone is seated at the correct table.
- > Note that the remaining sessions will involve small group discussions.
- > Each session will have a different combination of people.

Welcome to Session 2! Our focus tonight is two-fold.

- **First, we want you to get to know each other.**
- **Second, we want you to talk about the experience of asking someone out on a date.**

7:05 PM: Icebreaker Activity – First Date Hot Seat

- *Icebreaker setup:*
 - o Each table should have a jar/container full of one-question pieces of paper. (See Appendix, Session 2: Activity 1)
 - o Here are the questions:
 1. If you were a cartoon character, who would you be and why?
 2. What thought or message would you want to put in a fortune cookie?
 3. What is your ideal first date?

4. What intimidates you most about dating?
 5. If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?
 6. What is your best dating story?
 7. What is your worst dating story?
 8. What award would you love to win and for what achievement?
 9. What is the funniest pick-up line you have heard?
 10. If you had a time travel machine, where would you go and when?
 11. What is the most attractive quality in another person?
 12. At what age do you want to get married?
 13. What's the most important relationship in your life right now?
- o Be sure there are enough papers at each table for the number of individuals assigned to each table.
 - o If necessary, include duplicates of these questions.
- *Icebreaker Instructions:*
 - o WITHOUT LOOKING, each person chooses one piece of paper (containing one question) from the jar in the center of the table.
 - o Each person has one minute to read his/her question aloud, think about, and then answer his/her question
 - ➔ Note: players should not look at the paper until it is their turn to answer.
 - o The facilitator will keep and announce the time to the group.
 - o When it is time to move on to the next player, the facilitator announces this (perhaps use a bell, horn, or funny phrase at the end of each minute).

Now for the icebreaker: This is very simple. At your tables, you will find a jar filled with pieces of paper in the center. Please pass the jar. Without looking, each person should take one piece of paper from the jar. Do not look at the paper yet! When everyone has drawn from the jar, please have one person from your group raise your hand.

After all tables indicate that everyone has a piece of paper, proceed with the instructions.

Now, here's how this activity works: Each of you has picked a question. You have one minute to read the question out loud, think about, and answer the selected question.

- ➔ **During this minute, you are in the "Hot Seat" – So, if time allows, others at the table can find out more. For example, if the question is "What is the best color in the rainbow?" and the person answers "blue", others might ask "Why blue and not red?" or "What is your favorite blue object?" – You get the idea!**

- Once you hear this noise (Play selected buzzer noise) player 1 is no longer in the Hot Seat and the person to his/her left is now in the Hot Seat.
- The game continues this way for 12 rounds, so if you have less than 12 people at your table, once everyone has gone one time, pass your papers to the left and continue around the table until time is called.
- Identify someone in your group to be the first person in the Hot Seat. (Pause so that tables have time to identify player 1) Ready?

Your time starts now! (Play selected buzzer noise to begin the game) At the conclusion of the game, let everyone know you will segue to the next portion of the session.

7:25 PM: Facilitator Introduces Clips from The Dating Project

Now that you have had a chance to get to know each other a little better, we will now play two segments from the film, *The Dating Project*.

- **The first presents the woman from NYC who can't remember the last time she was on a date.** (play *The Dating Project* at 8.29-10.12) After the clip, ask questions, allowing time for answers in between.
 - What emotions did you experience while watching this clip?
 - Why aren't more people going on dates?
- **The second presents the Boston College student who comments on his experience of asking a person out on a date.** (Play film at 49.05-50.24) After the clip, ask questions, allowing time for answers in between.
 - Can you relate to his reaction?
 - Why can it be difficult to ask someone out in person?
 - What are the risks of asking someone out in person?

7:40 PM: Facilitator Introduces Small Group Discussion

You will find five questions at your table. Keep the film clips that you have just seen in mind as you discuss these questions. (See *Appendix, Session 2: Handout A*)

The questions focus on the dynamics associated with asking someone out on a date. Begin with whichever person volunteers to go first, then proceed from left to right.

Every 8 minutes I will announce that you should move to the next question. Dig deep. Be sure everyone participates.

Distribute the handout with the following questions:

- ➔ What were you most worried about going into this assignment?
- ➔ How did you ask the person out? What was his/her response?
- ➔ What were your feeling before/during/after the ask?
- ➔ How well did the rules concerning asking someone out on a date work or not work?
- ➔ What rule are you most concerned about for the actual date?

8:20 PM: Facilitator's Q & A with entire group

Could one representative from each group give a summary of your table's discussion related to these question? Allow time for sharing.

Would anyone like to provide feedback concerning the ask assignment?

If there are no comments, or after 5 minutes of large group discussion, proceed to closure.

8:25 PM: Closing Comments

A few reminders as we close.

- **You have two weeks to complete the second part of The Dating Assignment – going out on a date. You must have the date before Session 4, our final session. We will discuss the date at the final session.**
- **Remember, the optimal time for the date is about an hour.**
 - **No longer than an hour and a half.**
 - **Also, spend no more than \$10 total.**

During our next session, we will review scenes from The Dating Project and discuss broad topics concerning dating. We will address challenges posed by the current dating culture.

To prepare for Session 3, please do some background reading. As noted in the handout, (See *Appendix, Session 2: Handout B*) you will find thoughtful articles at the website for The Institute for Family Studies – <https://ifstudies.org/> Topics to consider:

- What is the purpose of dating?
- What makes a good date?
- What is counterproductive dating?
- What are some common sense guidelines for dating?
- What are reasonable boundaries?
- What are roadblocks to dating?
- How can the roadblocks be overcome?

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next session. Before leaving tonight, look at the second color on your nametag. Find someone with that same second color and introduce yourself to that person. Please drop off your name tag on the table when you leave.

❖ Organizer Notes on Session 2:

- o Debrief.
- o Discuss the response to the ask assignment.
 - What went well?
 - Opportunities for improvement?
- o Review format for Session 3.
 - What did you learn from Session 2 that might apply to optimizing Session 3? Consider adjusting accordingly.

SESSION 3 – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

(90 minutes)

6:45 PM: Reception

- Organize the name tags alphabetically so that when attendees arrive they can easily retrieve their name tag. Consider creating three sections with signs: A-E, F-N, and O-Z.
- Direct the participants to the table that corresponds to the second color on their name tag.

7:00 PM: Facilitator's Welcome Remarks- Say aloud what is in **bold**

Welcome to Session Three! We are about to begin the second half of this four-part series. As a recap, so far we have:

- Viewed the film *The Dating Project*,
- received *The Dating Assignment*, and
- completed the first part of the assignment, *The Ask*.

Today, we will dig into some tough questions related to outside factors impacting relationships, including:

- **texting**,
- **sexting**,
- **dating sites**,
- **pornography**,
- **alcohol/drugs**,
- **hypersexualized culture**,
- **pace of life**, etc.

Before we begin the small group discussions, please check your nametag to be sure you are at your assigned table. You should be sitting at the table with the second color on your name tag.

We have attempted to place four guys and four girls at each table. If your table does not have that configuration, we ask that you adjust by adding a team member where needed to carry out this final icebreaker – Speed Dating.

Notice we have arranged chairs sitting across from each other, corresponding to each table. Each table should now proceed to those arranged chairs, and ideally, four guys will be seated across from four girls.

When you are all seated, I will read the instructions.

7:05 PM: Icebreaker Activity.

- *Icebreaker instructions:*
 - Speed Dating Icebreaker
 - Participants will go on 4 speed dates of 2 minutes each.
 - They should introduce themselves and learn at least 1 thing about their date.

- *Room Setup*
 - o Chairs should already be set up facing each other for speed dating one-on-ones.
 - o Guys sit on one side, girls on the other.
 - o When all are seated, begin the four speed dates of 2 minutes each.
 - At the end of each 2-minute date, guys should move down one chair to the right.
 - Girls remain seated.
 - o After completing all four speed dates (four 2-minute dates/eight minutes total), each group will return to their table.

You will be going on 4 speed dates of 2 minutes each. When I give the signal, introduce yourselves and learn at least 1 thing about your date. Ask questions such as:

- **Where did you grow up?**
- **What do you enjoy studying?**
- **Favorite TV show? Movie? Sport? Hobby? Superhero? Meal?**

After two minutes, I will interrupt the conversations and direct the guys to move down one seat to the right. You will then begin another two-minute date.

We will repeat this process, completing four dates within eight minutes. Are we ready? Ok, proceed.

After completing all four speed dates, each group will return to their table.

Do we have a table that would like to come to the front of the room and report on the experience?

When all members from the table are at the front of the room, have these eight individuals stand shoulder to shoulder across the front of the room, a few feet from each other.

Each person – one at a time – please step forward, tell us your name, and then, the other members of the group can tell us what they learned about you. Let's begin with the person on the far left, and then, we will proceed down the line.

After all members of the table have stepped forward, and after all of their teammates have had an opportunity to comment, thank the volunteer table and invite them to return to their table.

Let's have a round of applause for these "speed daters" as they return to their table.

After they are in their seats, introduce the film segments.

7:20 PM: Four Clips and Large Group Discussion

Tonight, we invite you to explore questions concerning the culture. We will review four clips from The Dating Project. After viewing each clip, we will pause to discuss as a large group. Please also refer to the clips when you meet in your small groups. This is intended to be an open, constructive, and helpful conversation.

Have the first clip cued up and ready to play. Play the first clip, and then, discuss the clip as a large group. To stay on schedule, the large group discussion will need to be limited to approximately two minutes per clip. The facilitator should ask the questions noted in bold (per clip) and encourage the audience to express their first impression. In depth conversation will occur in the small groups.

- Chris (subject in film) talking with his mom. (The Dating Project at 44.11-47.10)
 - **Discussion questions for the large group:**
 - ➔ **What general observations do you make about their conversation?**
 - ➔ **How do your mentors influence your attitude on dating?**
 - ➔ **How can we live our faith in the world of dating and relationships?**
 - ➔ **What are some challenges to “dating differently” in today’s culture?**
- The group of woman discussing pornography. (The Dating Project at 37.45-39.45)
 - **Discussion questions for the large group:**
 - ➔ **How is pornography harmful?**
 - ➔ **Are you familiar with the website <https://fightthenewdrug.org/>?**
 - ➔ **How can we be accountable to each other?**
- The Boston College students’ description of the hookup culture. (The Dating Project at 12.50-13:48) /56.54- 57.54)
 - **Discussion questions for the large group:**
 - ➔ **Is this description of the hookup culture accurate in your experience? Why or why not?**
 - ➔ **How do you think the hookup culture affects our relationships (romantic and otherwise)?**
 - ➔ **What does it mean to date in line with your faith?**
- Professor Cronin noting that when she asked four seniors about what they will do with their relationships when they graduate, she discovered that only one of them had been on a date in four years. (The Dating Project at 4.58-6.05)
 - **Discussion questions for the large group:**

- When is the last time you have been on a date? (Don't answer that... or do!) Among your friends and peers, how often do people go on dates? What do you think about this?
- What do you wish dating was like?
- Are there other cultural factors involved in this scenario? Are we missing anything from this discussion? If so, please share.

7:40 PM: Small Group Discussion –

Now, we will look at these topics more closely in small groups. At your table, you will find a sheet with questions. You have 40 minutes to discuss the questions. Every 10 minutes I will announce that you should move to the next question. Ponder and discuss these questions. Suggest solutions. Please write notes. Your feedback will be part of the effort to reclaim dating.

- Distribute a Sheet, (See Appendix, Session 3: Handout A) with the Following Information and participants can pull them up on their devices.
 - What is a date?
 - <https://ifstudies.org/blog/encouraging-intentional-dating-in-a-hookup-culture>
 - Have this article at the table.
 - How do young adults date?
 - <https://ifstudies.org/ifs-admin/resources/why-millennials-need-more-frozen-love-column.pdf>
 - Have this article at the table.
 - What is the purpose of dating?
 - Constructive dating?
 - Counterproductive dating?
 - What are some roadblocks to dating? How can they be overcome?
 - <http://www.aei.org/publication/millennials-and-the-success-sequence-how-do-education-work-and-marriage-affect-poverty-and-financial-success-among-millennials/> (Be sure this article is available at each table)
 - <https://fightthenewdrug.org/>

- ➔ Do you consider any of the following roadblocks to dating? Why or why not? How do these activities impact today's dating culture?
 - texting,
 - sexting,
 - dating sites,
 - pornography,
 - alcohol/drugs,
 - hypersexualized culture,
 - pace of life, etc.

8:20 PM: Q & A

- Open forum
 - **Does anyone wish to comment? Ask a question?**
 - **Would anyone like to share what was discussed at your table?**
 - **What conclusions were reached? What are your most significant takeaways from our discussions? Where do we go from here as a culture?**
 - **Feedback**

8:25 PM: Closing Comments

Please note the last color on your name tag and introduce yourself to another person with that same last color. Finally, please leave your name tag at the door. Thank you for coming. Looking forward to our final session where we talk about your dates.

SESSION 4 – HOW DID THE DATE GO?

(90 minutes)

6:45 PM: Reception

- Organize the name tags alphabetically so that when attendees arrive they can easily retrieve their nametag. Consider creating three sections with signs: A-E, F-N, and O-Z.
- Direct the participants to the table that corresponds to the final color on their name tag.

7:00 PM: Facilitator's Welcome and Introduction of the Icebreaker

Welcome to Session Four!

Today we will discuss the second part of the assignment, **The Date**.

Before we begin the small group discussions, please check your name tag to be sure you are at your assigned table. The sign at your table should correspond to the third color on your name tag.

7:05 PM: Facilitator Introduces Clips from The Dating Project

We are now going to play two segments from The Dating Project.

- The first presents a Boston College student, Matt, who comments on his date. Notice his joyful expression and the simplicity of what he describes. (The Dating Project at 58.20-59.22)
 - Could I get volunteers to share their thoughts and feelings about the actual date?
- The second presents a Boston College co-ed who also exhibits a certain exuberance, a lightness of being. (The Dating Project at 59.22-59.58)
 - What is most striking about this clip?

7:15 PM: Facilitator Introduces the Small Group Discussion

At your table, you will find a sheet of paper with questions, (See Appendix, Session 4: Handout A) designed to facilitate discussion concerning your recent date. These are open-ended questions such as:

- Any interesting stories about the date?
- Where? When? How long?
- What feelings or situations were new?
- Something funny that occurred or the best part about the date?
- How well did the rules/parameters work or not work?
- Going forward, what will you incorporate from these rules into your dating practices?
- Why or why not?

You have 50 minutes. Every 10 minutes I will announce that you should move to the next question. Everyone should contribute to the conversation. Please participate.

8:05 PM: Q & A

Does anyone wish to make a comment about the Program? Have an observation that they wish to share?

(After one or two comments, transition to the survey.)

8:10 PM: Complete Survey

As mentioned at the outset of this program, The Dating Project is more than a movie, it is a movement to reclaim dating. You are part of this movement.

Please complete the three-question survey at your table. Be as detailed and specific as possible. After everyone at your table has completed the survey, please raise your hand.

- Complete Survey – Distribute a Sheet, (See Appendix, Session 4: Handout B) with these Three Questions
 - What did you like most?
 - Would you recommend this program?
 - Suggestions?

8:25 PM: Closing Comments

Thank you for participating. For those who wish, it is my understanding that a number of you plan to transition from here to (*reference a nearby establishment*). Great to meet you!

- ❖ Organizer Notes on Session 4: (See Appendix, Session 4: Handout C)
 - Discuss the response to the date assignment.
 - ➔ What went well?
 - ➔ Opportunities for improvement?
 - Collect Notes and Surveys
 - Provide the Data to The Dating Project program

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 1 Handout

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.

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 2 Activity 1

If you were a cartoon character, who would you be and why?

What thought or message would you want to put in a fortune cookie?

What is your ideal first date?

What intimidates you most about dating?

If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?

What is your best dating story?

What is your worst dating story?

What award would you love to win and for what achievement?

What is the funniest pick-up line you have heard?

If you had a time travel machine, where would you go and when?

What is the most attractive quality in another person?

At what age do you want to get married?

What's the most important relationship in your life right now?

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 2 Handout A

- What were you most worried about going into this assignment?

- How did you ask the person out? What was his/her response?

- What were you feeling before/during/after the ask?

- How well did the rules concerning asking someone out on a date work or not work?

- What rule are you most concerned about for the actual date?

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 2 Handout B

To prepare for Session 3, please do some background reading. You will find thoughtful articles at the website for The Institute for Family Studies: <http://ifstudies.org/>

- What is the purpose of dating?

- What makes a good date?

- What is counterproductive dating?

- What are some common sense guidelines for dating?

- What are reasonable boundaries?

- What are roadblocks to dating?

- How can the roadblocks be overcome?

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 3 Handout A

- o What is a date? Review this article on your device and write your comments:
➔ <https://ifstudies.org/blog/encouraging-intentional-dating-in-a-hookup-culture>

- o How do young adults date? Review this article on your device and write your comments:
➔ <https://ifstudies.org/ifs-admin/resources/why-millennials-need-more-frozen-love-column.pdf>

- o What is the purpose of dating?

- Constructive dating?

- Counterproductive dating?

- o What are some roadblocks to dating? How can they be overcome? Review this article on your device and write your comments:
 - > <http://www.aei.org/publication/millennials-and-the-success-sequence-how-do-education-work-and-marriage-affect-poverty-and-financial-success-among-millennials/>
 - > <https://fightthenewdrug.org/>

- Do you consider any of the following roadblocks to dating? Why or why not? How do these activities impact today's dating culture?

- Texting _____
- Sexting _____
- Dating sites _____
- Pornography _____
- Alcohol/drugs _____
- Hypersexualized culture _____
- Pace of life _____
- Others _____

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 4 Handout A

Small Group Discussion Questions: open-ended questions

- Any interesting stories about the date?
- Where? When? How long?
- What feelings or situations were new?
- Something funny that occurred or the best part about the date?
- How well did the rules/parameters work or not work?
- Going forward, what will you incorporate from these rules into your dating practices?
- Why or why not?

You have 50 minutes. Every 10 minutes I will announce that you should move to the next question. Everyone should contribute to the conversation. Please participate.

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 4 Handout B

Participant Questions:

- o What did you like most?

- o Would you recommend this program?

- o Suggestions?

- o Other Comments?

THE DATING PROJECT: Session 4 Handout C

Organizers: THANK YOU! for facilitating a group of young adults and taking them through this important process so they can learn, grow and DATE! We do want to see the surveys you have just received from your participants. We also want to hear from you. Please answer the following questions:

Organizer Questions:

- o Discuss the response to the date assignment.

- o What went well?

- o Opportunities for improvement?

- o Collect Notes and Surveys

- o Provide the Data to The Dating Project program

Please fill in the following information

Facilitator Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parish/Group: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Once you have completed this form and collected your participant surveys, please either copy or scan and email to Family Theater Productions: via mail: 7201 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90046 or via email to: Information@FamilyTheater.org.

Thank you for helping us restore a dating culture for young people and provide them with hope and the tools to find and develop strong, health relationships.





The Dating Project Curriculums

Guide the conversation. Bring the film to life.

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

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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.

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Help shape change.

#DateDifferently