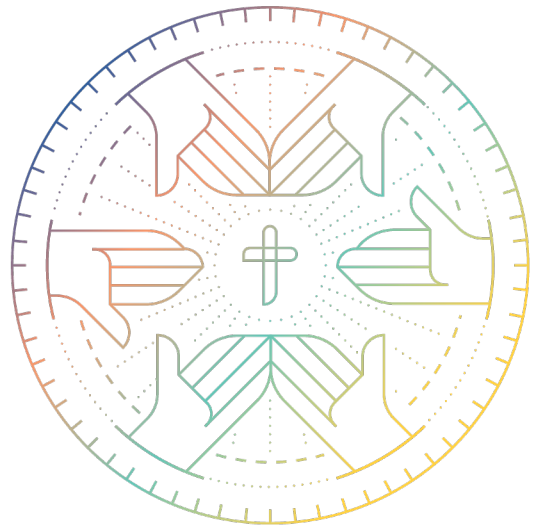


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

The Playbook: “How to Date and Decide”

Scripture Focus: Proverbs 4

ICEBREAKER

What is one piece of relationship advice you have heard—good or bad—that has stuck with you?

What quality do you admire most in a healthy relationship?

INTRODUCTION

Our culture has a lot to say about love, but Scripture gives us something far more reliable—a foundation of truth on which to build our understanding of love. Biblical love is shaped by wisdom, character, sacrifice, and commitment. Whether we are single, dating, or married, God invites us to trust Him with our relationships and allow Him—not our feelings—to direct our hearts.

What stood out to you most from this week’s message?

INTO THE WORD

Read Colossians 2:9–10, Psalm 16:11, and Proverbs 19:23. Why can it be tempting to believe another person will make us complete? How does finding our identity and satisfaction in Christ change the way we approach dating, marriage, and relationships?

Read Proverbs 4:20–27 and Jeremiah 17:9. What is the difference between listening to our feelings and allowing our feelings to lead us? What does it practically look like to “guard your heart” when making relationship decisions?

Read Proverbs 31:30, 1 Samuel 16:7, and 1 Corinthians 7:32–35. Why is character a more reliable foundation for relationships than attraction alone? What qualities should followers of Jesus value most in themselves and in others?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and Ephesians 5:1–2. How does Scripture’s description of love differ from the way our culture often describes it? Why are sacrifice and commitment especially important when feelings change or relationships become difficult?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Dating and deciding with wisdom means:

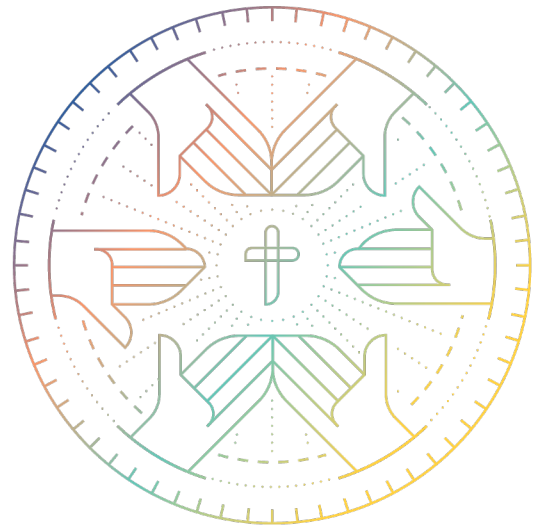
- Finding our completeness in Christ.
- Guarding our hearts instead of simply following them.
- Valuing character more than appearance.
- Inviting godly people into important relationship decisions.
- Choosing commitment and sacrificial love over chemistry alone.

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- Which cultural message about relationships is easiest to believe?

Group Life.

W E A R E B E T T E R T O G E T H E R



- How can trusted Christian community help us make wiser relationship decisions?
- Whether single, dating, or married, where might God be asking you to trust Him more with your relationships?

TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Seek God Daily:** Read Proverbs 4 each day this week. Ask God to reveal where feelings, attraction, or cultural expectations may be directing your heart more than His wisdom.
- **Build Deep Relationships:** Invite a trusted follower of Jesus into your relationships and decisions. Ask for honest feedback, wisdom, and prayer.
- **Worship God:** No matter your current relationship status, choose to honor God by seeking Him first, prioritizing commitment over chemistry, and loving like He loves.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for being committed to us, for Your Word which helps us navigate relationships, and for making us complete in Christ alone. For those who are single, help them to trust You with their future. For those who are dating, help them to build character and commitment. And for those who are married, help them to choose to act out their commitment without a feeling attached. May all these things be done for Your glory, and the benefit of others. In Jesus' name, Amen!