

Decision '08

Focus on Saving the Family

1. Focus on the importance of dating

Set a standard

DISCUSSION: What are your views on dating? How did you come to that position? How does that align with God's word?

Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? 2 Corinthians 6:14 The Message

Stay critical

DISCUSSION: How have you upheld or not upheld a proper dating standard? Where have you let the rules slide?

Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. Colossians 2:8 NLT

Am I ok marrying them if they never change?

2. Focus on the health of your marriage

Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. Hebrews 13:4 The Message

DISCUSSION: In what way are you focusing on the health of your marriage? In what way are you giving to your marriage in the way you're giving to other important areas of your life?

DISCUSSION: What are your feelings about your marriage? In what way are you guarding your thoughts about your marriage? In what way do your thoughts mainly focus on yourself?

{NOTE: If there are unmarried people in your group make sure to alter the questions in order to get them thinking about their future marriage. The individual should have some forward thoughts on marriage.}

Counseling

Run from anything that gives you evil thoughts but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. 2 Timothy 2:22 LB

Retreats/workshops

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Groups/friends

... Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT

DISCUSSION: How do your friendships help or hinder your marriage? If they hinder, what needs to change?

3. Focus on your kids

... These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom... Mark 10:14 The Message

Invest in their moral and spiritual teaching

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.
Proverbs 22:6 NLT

DISCUSSION: In what way are you investing in your child's moral and spiritual teaching? How are you avoiding this responsibility?

Spend time with them and not money

Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master. Ephesians 6:4 The Message

DISCUSSION: What is the proportion of time you give to your children as compared with your other activities? Make an honest assessment of your time.

{NOTE: Consider doing a time study for the next week. Chart everything you do in 30 minutes increments. See how much time you really spend with your children.}

Demonstrate Christian living at home

The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. Proverbs 20:7 NLT

Support and thank those who invest in your kids

DISCUSSION: Who are the people who most invest in your kids? How are you investing in those people?

Pastors Teachers Volunteers
Coaches Relatives Friends

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend 5-7 minutes alone with God and see what He brings up in you about your marriage and family. What are you feeling?

Discuss it with your group and then spend some time confessing and praying for one another.