

## TAKE A NEW APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS

How can you encourage your kids to have healthy relationships with members of the opposite sex yet stay safe and morally pure? Youth leader Josh Pease offers these suggestions that just might surprise you:

- **Don't demonize sex, but don't over glorify it either.** As you encourage kids to save intimacy for marriage, also emphasize that sex shouldn't be just about self-satisfaction.
- **Model healthy relationships.** Let kids see what a sacrificial relationship looks like—on good days and bad. Show them how to work out problems.
- **Teach an "others-focused" approach to dating.** Instead of just asking, "Is this person right for me?" ask, "Am I right for this person?" "Is this the right timing?" Other questions to consider: By my behavior, do I influence the person I'm dating to be more like Jesus? Am I focusing more on what I can get out of them or on what I can do for them? Is my presence in their life right now distracting them from who God is revealing them to be?

As we emphasize abstinence and the beauty of God's plan for marriage, Pease says, let's also teach kids to model Jesus' sacrificial love in their relationships now. That way, they'll be better equipped to thrive as spouses in the future.

When we do, we'll finally be paving the way for our teenagers to not just fall in

## TIPS >>>

The small-group resource *Guy Talk, Girl Talk 2: The Cure for Cooties (Simply Youth Ministry)* offers these Bible-based dating tips for young people:

- **Turn off the negative influences.** Steer clear of hip-hop songs, magazines, porn, and friends who degrade people and go against God's designs.
- **Accept the differences.** Realize that boys and girls feel and see things differently.
- **Take it slowly.** First learn how to build good friendships without the pressure of romance and getting physical.
- **Be responsible for your actions.** Don't cause other people to stumble, whether by how you speak to them or how you dress.
- **Talk with Jesus about your experiences.** This may seem weird at first, but praying about your friendships makes a lot of sense if you're trying to understand the opposite sex.
- **Celebrate God's love and friendship.** In every area of your life, God has a plan, including a plan for friendship and love. Once we trust God and rely on him and his timing, we can celebrate him and his plan for us.

## THE VIEW

- 68% of teenagers say their friends are in "healthy" romantic relationships, while 19% say their friends are in "unhealthy" relationships.
- 48% of girls and 40% of guys say trust is the most important part of a healthy relationship.
- When asked who influences their dating relationships, teenagers list parents first (35%) and friends second (28%). Only 3% of respondents list "religious leader and faith community."

(National Campaign to Prevent Teen & Unplanned Pregnancy)

## PONDER THIS

- What messages are your kids receiving about relationships from you? from their peers? from society? from the media?
- What role, if any, should you have in deciding whom your teenager dates or marries?
- What can you do *now* to ensure that you maintain positive ties with your teenager and his or her spouse in the future?





# GOING DEEPER

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Jane Dratz

**At [SimplyYouthMinistry.com](http://SimplyYouthMinistry.com), Jane Dratz explores how parents can help teenagers through relational landmines:**

When tough times hit on the romantic scene and you're pulled into the middle of teenage drama, pass along these insights and strategies that can bring a Godly perspective to the challenge of ending a relationship.

- Always treat the other person with dignity and respect. Remember the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12).
- Don't let things drag on and

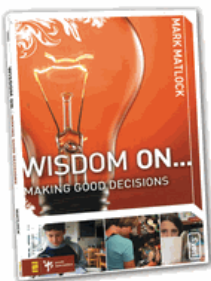
on. Address the source of the relational conflict. Talk it out. When you can't find common ground to work things out and you know it's inevitable that it's time to move on relationally, get up your courage and deal with it. Of course, be sensitive to specific timing.

- Unpacking personal conflict with others should be done in person, if possible. Come to the conversation calmly, not in anger (Proverbs 15:1).
- Express appreciation for

what's been good in the relationship. But if you believe it's time to move on, make that clear. Don't leave the other person dangling and hoping if you know clearly that things need to be over.

- Remember to run to God with the tough stuff because he promises to walk beside you through it all. A relationship with God through Jesus is ultimately the only relationship that will satisfy the deepest levels of your relational being. When relational stuff hurts, God's there in the midst of it to wrap his arms around you.

## RESOURCE



*Wisdom On... Making Good Decisions* (Simply Youth Ministry) uses case studies, personal inventories, and more to apply biblical wisdom to friendships, dating, and relationships.

## BIBLE FOCUS

“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, NIV**

# JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
		Church Softball 6:00PM				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><b>No txt 180 Coker Creek Deposits are due Last Chance!!!!</b></p> <p><b>10:00AM "All Church" Rethink Lab</b>            "Knowing What and How to Communicate God's Love Story to Others"</p> <p>6:00-8:00PM Six02 Middle School at the Church            Studio A side</p> <p>6:00-8:00PM Six02 High School at the Church            Studio B side</p> <p><b>"Minute To Win It" Games.....</b></p>		Church Softball 6:00PM				<p><b>"Special Event"</b>  <b>6:00PM-11:00PM</b>  <b>Indy Indians baseball game \$10. Meet at church</b></p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p><b>No txt 180</b></p> <p><b>10:00AM "All Church" Rethink Lab</b>            "Knowing What and How to Communicate God's Love Story to Others"</p> <p><b>Six02 Off-Site-- Dress for outside- you may get wet.</b>            6:00PM- 8:00PM Six02 Middle School            Meet at Church for a ride. We will be at Bowyers</p> <p>6:00PM- 8:00PM Six02 High School            Meet at for ride. We will be at Schoolcrafts</p>		Church Softball 6:00PM				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p><b>txt 180 will move to a different time 10:00AM in the Studio during the summer months</b></p> <p><b>No Six02- due to Father's Day</b></p>		Church Softball 6:00PM				<p><b>Guys event!!!</b>  <b>Breakfast @ the church 8:00AM</b>  <b>Shooting range afterwards (see below for details)</b></p>
26	27	28	29	30		
<p><b>txt 180 will move to a different time 10:00AM in the Studio during the summer months</b></p> <p><b>All Students and Families are invited to go to McCormick Creek State Park after the 11:15 service See below for details</b></p>		Church Softball 6:00PM				

# Information

## **Coker Creek Deposits Due Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Don't allow your students to pass up the opportunity for this summer's Student Ministry trip to Coker Creek Christian Retreat Center in Tennessee! Registration forms are available at welcome centers and in the Studio. The dates are **July 2-5 and forms are due June 5**. This year the theme is "**Believe**" and it will be a powerful time discovering what God's word has to say about the power of true beliefs and how they impact your life. Activities include- white water rafting, paint ball, zip-line, horseback riding, mountain biking, and more.

Any questions, contact Pastor Matt [matt19721@frontier.com](mailto:matt19721@frontier.com)



*Student Small Groups during the week will not meet for the summer months. We will resume this when school starts. I encourage those who usually attend weekly student small groups to make a special effort **Sunday morning Txt 180, as it will be at a later time 10:00am**, and a slightly different format.*

## **Special Events**

### **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>- Rethink Lab in the Studio- 10:00AM**

There will be no regular txt 180 these two Sundays due to the "ReThink" lab, "Communicating God's Love Story." I strongly encourage youth and parents to attend this "ReThink Lab" on how to communicate your faith to others.

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.** 6:00PM-11:00PM meet at the church. We will be going to an Indy Indians game. Cost is \$10 for ticket. Anyone can come. Invite a friend.

**Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> - Off site events.** Meet at the church 6:00PM. Middle School goes to Bowyer home. High School goes to Schoolcraft home. Dress for the outside. You may get wet!!!!

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.** Calling all DUDES!!! Breakfast at the church 8:00AM. After breakfast and short devotional, we will go to Mike Keller's property for target shooting. This is a "Guy only" event. All boys/men from the church are invited. A fee will be charged for ammo, if you do not bring your own- around \$5-\$10 based upon what ammo you use, or just come and watch. Guns, instruction, and safety will be provided. We encourage all men and teens to attend this fun event. For details see Pastor Matt.

**Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.** All Students and Families are invited to go to McCormick Creek State Park after the 11:15 service. We will caravan to McCormick Creek State Park following the third service. \$5 fee for park admission. Please bring a side item. Main dish (grill food- hot dogs/hamburgers) and drink will be provided. There are also activities that the park provides- optional swimming \$5 (appropriate attire please), hiking, games, etc. I strongly encourage all Coker Creek participants to attend if possible as we will discuss what the students will be studying, and we will go over details about trip. Please attend if possible. This will be a really fun outing. Transportation will be available for students whose parents cannot attend, we will return 6:30PM. Bring lawn chairs and picnic games if you desire.

## **Remainder of Coker Creek Money is Due Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.**

(You will receive a statement after June 5<sup>th</sup> on what you owe)