

FindersKeepers

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 18:22

The FindersKeepers series has as its goal to educate young adults about the purposes of relationships, the commitment required to make them work, the character that must be exhibited by each committed member, and the conduct that must be expected of two persons in a relationship. We anticipate that providing this information will result in a maximize number of young adults engaging in healthy relationships in local cities.

We hope that you will continue to consider VERGE a relevant voice and leader in lifestyle programming for young adults.

Sincerely,

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Relationships serve a PURPOSE

What are some of the goals of relationships?

Relationships offer _____.

Partners in a relationship _____ one another.
Genesis 2:18 *It is not good for man to be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him.*

Ecclesiastes 4:12
One may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

Covenant relationships are called to _____.
Genesis 1:28 *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion...*

Lasting relationships require COMMITMENT
How do I decide whether or not I should get married?

Ask Yourself:

Would my _____ be served by my singleness?

I Cor. 7:17

Only let each person lead a life that the Lord has assigned to him and to which God has assigned him.

I Cor. 7:32-34

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

EX. Paul
EX. Jesus

Can I commit to _____?

I Cor. 7:9

But if they cannot exercise self-control they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

What am I looking for in a mate?

CHARACTER/Spiritual Disciplines

Rules of Engagement

Fellowship—mutual caring and ministry in the body of Christ
Service—intentionally and cheerfully helping others

Submission—me in the hands of someone else
Confession—exposing faults without fear
Prayer—talking to God, listening for his answer
Worship—public and intimate

**How do I determine when I try to find a mate?
TIMING-Relationship Readiness**

A person demonstrates readiness by _____ and _____.

Genesis 2:15-17

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Once I've determined that the time is right, how do I find a mate?

A mate may be discovered by

1. _____ Genesis 24:2-4, Gen 28:1-3
2. _____ Genesis 24:12-14
3. _____ Judges 14:1-3

Remember that the _____ will relate to the _____ (character, personality).

Proverbs 19:14 *A prudent wife is from the Lord.*

Can my dating honor God? CONDUCT

Dating can foster _____ if the appropriate boundaries are set beforehand.

Ask yourself...

Am I behaving _____ in my relationship?

I Cor. 7:36

If anyone thinks he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be...let them marry—it is no sin.

The monologues on the following pages are a part of our *Art of Losing* Production. This full length production creatively illustrates the emotional and physical consequences of casual sexual activity. “The Art of Losing” has been performed for countless college students across the state of Georgia. The discussion questions that follow the monologue will strengthen are taken from the bible study and workbook, *The Art of Losing: The Road to Purity in a Sex-Crazed World* (2008).

¹read \□rēd\ vb

: to receive or take in the sense of

Read Me Right

I know what you're thinking.
(Barking sounds from backstage.)
But did you make up your mind before or after you wanted to hang out all night at my place cause you couldn't sleep and you just felt safer with me around?

There's a couple of things I was born knowing how to do and keeping a woman's body warm and safe at night is just one of them. Yeah, I got a whole résumé; you should check it out sometime. (Laughs.) I know you, you will.

How long were we supposed to just snuggle? Uh huh, and you had the matching little lacey camisole and booty night shorts because you like to look good for yourself under the covers. Yeah, I know...it's a woman's prerogative.

You don't want to say I'm stronger than you, but that's gotta be what you're thinking when you brush your front and your back up against me like that and just kind of fall into my arms.

Which one of us is the better player?

At least I'm honest. I'm telling you in no uncertain terms that I want what you're marketing and if you hang around for any amount of time you'll be making a deal with your God to let me get it, take it, own it, girl.

If I act like I don't want you, you gon' call me gay.
And if I stay away from you long enough I just might believe those words, cause a man's got needs. The old stroke-a-doke can't always satisfy me.

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Don't look at me like that. (In sing-songy voice.) I'm your brother, I'm your daddy, I'm that hustler in the alley... (normal speaking voice) and you didn't look at him that way, not even once... (sing-songy) I'm your doctor when you need ' walk set straight, angst relieved...

You can smile, girl, cause you know I got you. Yeah, look straight ahead cause your girlfriend don't have to know. You know I ain't gon' tell her. But, ay, tell me again... what time tonight you comin' by?

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Read Me Right Study Questions

If you have ever tempted a man to arouse him sexually, what caused you to do so?

Record the following scriptures allowing them to help form your attitude about temptation.

Proverbs 12:26

Proverbs 9:13-17

Proverbs 1:10-17

How might constant tempting affect a person's behavior?

Describe your own experience of being constantly tempted in an area.

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What was the outcome?

Now record the words in the following scriptures.

2 Corinthians 12:7

Romans 12:21

Men and women often have very different reasons for having sex. What stimuli cause you to be tempted to have sex with someone?

If you are single, and you own alluring lingerie, what inspired you to purchase it?

How is your behavior or attitude affected when you wear alluring lingerie?

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In what ways are your sexual convictions supported or weakened by the things you wear (lingerie and outerwear)?

¹tease \□tēz\ vt

: to tantalize esp. by arousing desire or curiosity often without intending to satisfy it

If these thighs could talk

If these thighs could talk – they’d say, close your lips, cause frankly, I’m tired of getting us out of the messes you’ve gotten us into. Why smile so big? Why talk so much, or so long, or so late? Girl, why do all that kissing...all that touching if you know you ain’t trying to let him in? Look, look at this. See these muscles? That’s not from weight training, that’s from flexing, tightening, holding myself together, so as not to let the over zealous ones through. Um hum, I’m playing goalie and you’re acting like you’re power forward on the other team. That offense-defense thing is getting old. Shoot, I’m getting old. I can’t promise you I’m going to be this strong the next time. Remember when Anthony found that spot...that little area up in the crease that just relaxed us into a trance? That was a close call. I was out for what...four, five seconds? That never seemed like a long time, but when I came to, Anthony was about two inches from parting the red sea. Scary thought huh? ‘Cause you know he had been with every girl on the second floor of the freshman dorm. I don’t even know why you agreed to go out with him, or to let him in your room afterwards. Personally, I could have done without the trauma. I think I got a bruise that night. Who needs it? Not me. Definitely, not me. So honey, do us both a favor next time, if you’re not gonna let him in, keep your lips closed.

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If these thighs could talk Study Questions

If you've ever given your number to, or accepted a date invitation from someone you sensed only had sexual intentions for your relationship, consider what prompted you to do so. Write down your reason.

Together let's consider the widely accepted practice of fooling around. What is your idea of fooling around?

Now read Song of Solomon 3:1-5 and I Cor. 7:8-9 and I Cor. 7:36. What attitude toward fooling around is expressed in these passages?

Song of Solomon 3: 1-5

I Corinthians 7:8-9

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I Corinthians 7:36

If you have not developed a conviction "not to awaken love until the right time," spend time now developing a plan to keep dates sex free.

How are dating locations limited by such a plan?

How might time or the longevity of dates be affected by a plan to keep dates asexual?

How might what you wear on a date change?

Now think about the effect of solitude (being alone with your date). Especially if you have sexual failures in your past, consider giving yourself parameters that forbid you from being

alone with the opposite sex for extended time periods. If you are seriously considering setting guidelines about solitude, jot them down here.

Now anticipate the reactions of friends and families to this new plan you've developed. How could you respond in love to positive and negative reactions to your plan?

If you have a conviction to keep sexual activity out of dating, but you consistently or occasionally override that conviction identify the steps that lead you to dismiss it.

Suggested Reading

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