



Awkward / Week 4

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Focus on becoming love before looking for love.

SCRIPTURE

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To get students thinking about what kind of person they want to become and to take steps toward developing the qualities they want in themselves.

THINK ABOUT THIS

It's a lot easier for middle schoolers to talk about others than it is for them to talk about themselves. That's why

talking about the qualities they want to find in someone else first is important. They'll be able to identify those things in others and doing so will help them shift their thinking back to themselves. Do your best to help your few understand *why* it's important to focus on themselves. We don't want to give them a false hope that simply becoming the kind of person they want to be will magically equate to a happy dating life. Rather, we want them to understand the value and peace that comes with becoming the kind of person God wants you to be. Finally, remember that you may have students who have experienced sexual abuse on some level. This conversation could lead them to eventually open up to you about that, so be prepared to follow up, support, and point them toward help if and when they do.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

Who is a "perfect couple" from a TV show, movie, or in real life you've seen?

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how awkward do you feel talking about dating?
2. Do you feel like a lot of middle schoolers you know are dating?
3. What's one reason someone might want to have a boyfriend or girlfriend?
4. What's one reason someone might not?
5. What's one characteristic you want a person you like to have?
6. Why do you think it's important to develop those characteristics in yourself, too?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Give out the provided phone lock screen or handout to your students. Ask them to personalize the Scripture by inserting their name in the blanks. Then have them circle/select the quality that they'd like to develop more in themselves.

DISCUSS THIS

7. This week, what's one way you can work on it?
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