

TAKE A NEW APPROACH TO DATING AND RELATIONSHIPS

My parents and I never talked about dating when I was a teenager, so everything I knew came from *The Cosby Show* and *Beverly Hills, 90210*. Because I had little idea what comprised a healthy dating relationship, I learned by trial and error. I wish my parents had been more proactive in having conversations with me about dating—even though it might have been awkward for all of us.

Teenagers' bodies are a strange mix of chemical reactions and incomplete wiring. When you throw love and dating into the mix, the whole system can blow up, causing teenagers to act in ways that make parents ask, "What were they thinking?" It may feel difficult to talk to your teenagers about dating, but be brave and do it! Don't let *Glee* and *Jersey Shore* be your kids' main source of information about relationships.

This fall, Young People's Ministries will publish a new sexuality resource called *Sex Is Good*. Consider using this to facilitate learning and conversation about human sexuality. More information will be available soon on our website, www.globalyoungpeople.org.

—Hank Hilliard, Young People's Ministries, hilliard@GBOD.org

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)

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.

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, 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

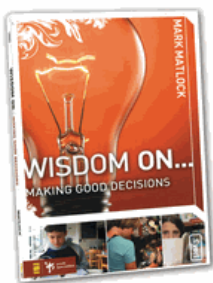
on. Address the source of the relational conflict. Talk it out. When you can't find common ground to work things out and you know it's inevitable that it's time to move on relationally, get up your courage and deal with it. Of course, be sensitive to specific timing.

- 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.

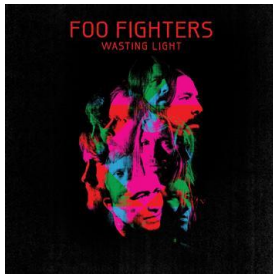
BIBLE FOCUS

“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

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

MAINSTREAM MUSIC



FOO FIGHTERS

Background: Rising from Nirvana's ashes in 1994, Foo Fighters makes in-your-face rock. Their seventh album, *Wasting Light*, debuted at #1 on the Billboard charts. They've won six Grammys, including three for Best Rock Album.

Albums: *Wasting Light* (2011), *In Your Honor* (2005), *The Colour and the Shape* (1997)

What Foo Fighters Says: Founding force Dave Grohl is known as a rebel: "I never liked being told what to do. It's one of the reasons I dropped out of school. Give me something to assemble, I won't look at the directions, I'll try to figure it out by myself. It's why I love IKEA furniture."

Explore: Here's a YouTube video of the song "Home," the lyrics of which have led people to wonder if the Foo Fighters are a Christian band. They aren't.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcx0I5tRchE

CHRISTIAN MUSIC



OWL CITY

Background: Adam Young plays all parts of the popular Owl City musical project. Young found an audience after putting his music on MySpace. The song "Fireflies" from his major-label debut soared to #1 on the charts.

Albums: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (2011), *Ocean Eyes* (2009), *Of June* (2007)

What Owl City Says: Regarding his faith, Young says, "Owl City is just me. I don't write Christian songs, but I am a Christian musician, so I suppose the classification of the band is up to the listener. My faith is very important to me and is a very big part of who I am as an individual. It's kind of up to you...."

Explore: On the Owl City Web site, you can view "Alligator Sky," a video from the new album:

www.owlcitymusic.com/

MOVIES

Title: *Super 8*

Genre: Thriller

Rating: Not yet rated (likely PG-13)

Synopsis: In 1979, some friends making an amateur film witness a terrible train accident. Soon people start disappearing, and the friends suspect something on the train is terrorizing the town.

Our Take: J.J. Abrams' work is usually pretty clean, well-written, funny, and genuinely interesting. With Steven Spielberg on board as a producer, this should be a blockbuster.

Title: *Green Lantern*

Genre: Action-Adventure

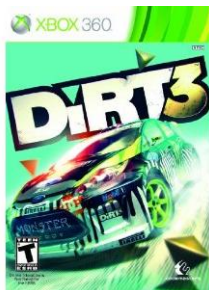
Rating: Not yet rated (likely PG-13)

Synopsis: For the first time, a human joins the ranks of the Green Lantern Corps—an intergalactic group of heroes sworn to protect the universe from evil.

Our Take: Marvel's superhero movies are meant to be family friendly, so expect mostly clean content mixed with lots of special effects and action sequences.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to www.MinistryandMedia.com.

VIDEO GAMES



DIRT 3—This game is all about adrenaline. The rally car racing simulation gives players more than 50 options for cars, plus new locations, routes, and events. Aside from possible lyrics in the music, this game *should* be good for teenagers.

Duke Nukem Forever—Steer clear of this first-person shooter. The franchise revels in over-the-top violence and degradation of women. There's a "Capture the Babe" mode, in which players can choose to spank women while abducting them.

JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					Youth week-guys/girls night out.	Soul Survivor Campout 8:30 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Soul Survivor Campout Returns at 3pm Movie night 6-8pm	Youth week Dodge Ball Tournament 7-9pm	Youth Week-Burgers Lake 9-4pm	Youth Week Randon Acts of Kindness 10-1 Food Bank Bring canned food! 5:30-8pm	Youth Week Scavenger Hunt 7-9pm		Sr High Mission trip loads 6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sr High Mission Trip departs 7:30am FLIGHT 9:15 UMYF 6-8	Mission Trip	Mission Trip	Mission Trip Wacky Wet Wednesday 7-10pm	Mission Trip	Mission Trip	Mission Trip
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Mission Trip FLIGHT 9:15 UMYF 6-8			Wacky Wet Wednesday 7-10pm			
26	27	28	29	30		
FLIGHT 9:15 UMYF 6-8	VBS	VBS	VBS Wacky Wet Wednesday 7-10pm	VBS All youth working VBS will go to IHOP for lunch, bring \$		

FLIGHT is our Christian Education opportunity on Sunday mornings. It begins with a light breakfast, so don't be late or you'll miss out. We meet in Barnabas Hall.

Wacky Wet Wednesday- I do not have the locations at this time. They will be put on the web site as soon as they are available. Wacky Wet Wednesdays (previously called Totally tubular Tuesdays) each Wednesday of the summer we gather at a different home to enjoy swimming and fellowship. Wear a one piece swim wear or a t-shirt over it. Snacks will be provided. Parents drop off and pick up at the host home, in case of rain at 7pm we will cancel the event or should it start to rain during the event, please come pick up your youth.

Youth Week- If you have not received a youth week brochure, information can be found on our web site. The last day to sign up for the Soul Survivor Campout is May 22.

VBS- volunteers are still needed. Youth wanting to volunteer must sign-up with Cathy and attend a training. Don't just show up on Monday morning. You will be asked to go back home.