

# Top 10 Dating Tips for Christian Teens

Read through the tips/scriptures and discuss

## 10. Test Your Motives

Psalm 139:23 says *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."* Ask yourself, "What is my motive for wanting to date?" Is it peer pressure? Rebellion? Low self esteem? Curiosity? Just wanna have fun? Feel the need to learn more about the opposite sex? Think dating will help you learn what you like and dislike? Do you just have a major crush? Are you looking to start and build a family? If you check out the Bible, you'll find that male/female hook-ups are intended to last. Mark 10:6-9 says, *"But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 7 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, 8 and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, 9 let no one split apart what God has joined together."* Starting a family is really the only "biblical" motive for dating. Other motives aren't necessarily "bad" or sinful but you might want to consider if godly wisdom is guiding your decisions.

**For Discussion:** What is the typical high school motive for wanting to date?

## 9. List What You're Looking For

In Proverbs 31:10-31 you'll find an acrostic of the Hebrew alphabet listing all the characteristics of the ideal woman. It's not a bad idea to make a list of what type of characteristics are important to you when thinking about who you will "go out with". Begin with the end in mind. Set standards for who you will and won't date. Then have friends and family help you to stick to your standards and only date within those parameters. Save yourself the time, money, and heartache. It's very important to make your own list...someone else's won't do. You've gotta really believe that the things on the list are important to you if it's going to mean anything.

**For Discussion:** What are your standards for who you will and won't date?

## 8. Talk about it All the Time

We should talk about dating and our interests all the time to keep this part of our lives "in the light". 1 John 1:6-8 says, *"So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth."* You should share your heart with friends and seek their advice. Proverbs 15:22 says, *"Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success."* You should share your heart with leaders and mentors and consider the path they've walked. Hebrews 13:7 says, *"Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith."* You should share your heart with your parents and honor the advice and parameters they give you. Exodus 20:12 says, *"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."* You should always share what's going on with God since He sees it anyways. Jeremiah 23:24 says, *"Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?"*

**For Discussion:** Who are the people that you would trust to give you good dating advice?

## 7. Focus More on BEING the Right Person than FINDING the Right Person

Genesis 2:22 says, *"Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man."* God brought Eve to Adam. Adam didn't have to go find her. The same is true for us today. We should be consumed with our relationship with God and trust Him to bring another into our lives when the time is right. Matthew 6:33 says, *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."*

Bonus point. Another way to say this is: INFORM your heart. Don't FOLLOW your heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"*

**For Discussion:** What does it look like for a high schooler to "seek first his kingdom"?

#### 6. Find Creative Ways to Avoid Isolation and Enjoy Life

Hebrews 10:25 says, *"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."*

You don't need to date to have fun and get to know people on a deeper level. Some ideas...group dates, "just for fun" dates, service projects, game nights, dinner & a movie, laser tag, bowling, etc. Go out on a limb and start something fun.

**For Discussion:** What are some fun things high schoolers can do together in groups?

#### 5. Prepare to Accept Rejection

If you are thinking seriously about dating, you must prepare your heart for disappointment and rejection. Anchor your life firmly in Christ so that you are not too shaken by the heartache of relationships. Philippians 4:12-13 says, *"I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."* Do you know the secret to being content no matter what happens? Make sure you don't put too much importance on how someone you date makes you feel. That kind of happiness won't last.

**For Discussion:** Do you know anyone that puts too much importance and emotion into dating?

#### 4. Count the Cost of Fractured Friendships

Dating will affect friendships. Before you decide to start going out with people, you need to figure out if it is worth what it might cost. You've probably all seen the drama, gossip, and divisions that occur around dating relationships. Problems grow beyond the two people involved in the relationships. Whole groups can become awkward and split and many feelings can be hurt along the way. Proverbs 16:28 says, *"A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends."* Are you ready for things to happen that might separate close friends? If you decide to date, be prepared.

**For Discussion:** Have you ever seen gossip and divisions occur because of dating?

### 3. Always Tell the Truth but Be Gentle. Require the Same

Proverbs 24:26 says, *"An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship."* Always be honest and truthful about your standards, feelings, reasons, and decisions. Don't make things up to make things easier. If you date, you will be tempted to tell lies to protect your reputation or because you feel bad about how you feel. If you break up with someone or tell someone "no", handle it in a mature way with gentle honesty. If someone breaks up with you or tells you "no", accept honesty from them. If you're not mature enough to handle relationships in this way, you're probably not mature enough to be in them in the first place.

**For Discussion:** Do you think it would be difficult to gently break up with someone or tell them "no"?

### 2. Keep God in Front of You and Put the Past Behind

Some of you have made some mistakes in dating in the past. Has God forgiven you? If you've got an ugly past, consider the following verses: Psalm 16:8 says, *"I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."* John 8:10-11 says, *"Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 11 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'"* Romans 8:1 says, *"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."*

**For Discussion:** Is the assurance of forgiveness a permission slip to sin?

### 1. Kissing isn't Hard to Learn so You Don't Need to Practice

Sometimes people plan to date just to experiment and gain experience. This isn't God's plan. God has designed us to be natural kissers (and more). When we find the right person we will marry and trust God's plan, we won't have to worry about whether or not we've "practiced" in the past. Don't fall victim to this deceptive trap. Even if it seems like everyone else is doing "stuff" like kissing (and more), don't believe the lie that it is something you should be doing too. Remember, Ephesians 5:3 says, *"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity."*

**For Discussion:** How strong is the temptation to experiment with kissing and/or other physical/sexual stuff?