

RADICAL ROMANCE

DECIDE YOUR GUIDE

LIFE GROUP NOTES

CONNECT and REFLECT

(15-20min) Since you may have new people visiting your group, spend some extended time getting to know each other and getting the conversation started.

Play a game:

Are the following book titles real or fake:

- “Everything I Know About Women I Learned From My Tractor” - *REAL! It's a book by a farmer named Roger Welsch*
- “How to Date a White Woman: A Practical Guide for Black Men” - *FAKE! The real title is “How to Date a White Woman: A Practical Guide for Asian Men” by Adam Quan*
- “How to Be a Good Boyfriend: 34 ways to keep her from getting annoying, jealous, or crazy” - *REAL! And it was written by a woman - Rebecca A. Marquis*

Ask some ice-breaker questions:

- What is your current relationship status?
- What is the best piece of relationship advice you have ever heard?
- What is the worst piece of relationship advice you have ever heard?

Ask a reflection question:

- Is there anyone in your life who you see as ‘couple goals’ (i.e. you want to be more like them?). What is it about their relationship that you respect and aspire to?
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READ

(5 min)

Read this extract from Wolfi Eckleben's book 'Date Talk':

"Not all advice is equal and not all is helpful. Much relationship advice has more to do with lust than love. Too much advice is about laws and rules and don'ts, without enough emphasis on the dos and the hows and the whys.

We need a more reliable source of help. As for any product, I believe that the most reliable source of advice and instruction is the manual. The word manual literally means the mind of the manufacturer giving instructions on the use of a product. If you want the best out of any product, study the manual. Often we don't get the most use out of a product because we simply have not followed the manual. As a result, we may under-utilise, misuse or even destroy the product in our ignorance or pride.

I believe that the Bible is the Maker's manual for living life to the full. If you want the best out of this thing called life and relationships, try doing it according to this Manual. Maybe you don't personally believe in God and have all sorts of questions about the Bible, but let me encourage, even challenge you to read what the God of the Bible says about you and see if that might ring true. I guarantee that by following the principles of this Manual will greatly improve your living and your loving. Neither the Bible, nor DateTalk is about a bunch of rules, but rather about a way to do relationships better. Jesus called himself "The Way", and he invites you to follow him to find real life and fulfilment in every area, including your relationships."

EXAMINE

(15-20min) What does it mean?

- Wolfi mentions that we need a reliable source to help us in the area of romantic relationships. Do you think people need guidance in this area? Why or why not?
 - What do you think the difference between lust and love is? Why would most advice be about lust rather than love?
 - How do you know whether a source of help and advice is reliable or not?
 - What do you think about the statement that the Bible is not just a bunch of rules?
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APPLY

(10-15min) What will we do?

- What sources or 'instruction manuals' have most influenced your thinking and approach to romantic relationships?
 - How do these influence the way that you think and act?
 - Could the Bible become a source of instruction for your romantic relationships? What challenges do you face in applying what the Bible teaches?
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PRAY

(5-10min)

If you find you have any non-Christians visiting your group who may not feel comfortable with prayer, take this opportunity to pray a brief prayer asking God to help you based on what you have shared.

If your group is more comfortable with prayer, spend some time praying for one another based on what you have shared.

HOME

(5 min) Take the opportunity to connect people to the wider church family and what might be next for them:

- **Group Life:** Is there anything happening outside of the group meeting to draw people into?
 - **Church Life:** What's happening next service, are there any key opportunities to highlight, are group members taking their place as contributing church members?
 - **Discipleship Step:** Is there a next step that members need to take on the discipleship growth path?
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