

Love, Dates, Heartbreaks, and Kids

Lesson 1

Joshua 23:9-13; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14

March 20, 2022

Healthy Dating

INTRODUCTION

A young boy asks his father for his permission to watch a movie with his friends. He quickly says that the movie has just a little, very brief, explicit scene.

The dad warns the boy that even a little explicit scene can have serious consequences for his mind. He demonstrates this by making his son's favorite chocolate chip cookies. The boy joyously grabs the treat and is about to take a bite when his dad says, "By the way, there is just a tiny, little bitty, you-can-barely-taste-it amount of dog poop in those cookies. You see, even just a little bit of something bad can ruin the whole thing!"

The Israelites were warned of something far more dire than cookies laced with dog excrement. They were warned of the ramifications of intermarrying with those of the neighboring countries. God lays out His reasons for this. He creates boundaries so that the Israelites will have life, and that life is found in knowing Him. We have the same invitation.

Memory verse: "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

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What was done to the powerful nations by the Lord?
(Joshua 23:9)
2. Who is it that fights for the Israelites? (Joshua 23:10)
3. What will the nations become to the Israelites if they're not driven out? (Joshua 23:12-13)
4. What are we not to do with unbelievers?
(2 Corinthians 6:14)
5. What two comparisons does Paul give when talking about being yoked with unbelievers?
(2 Corinthians 6:14)

3. We cannot drive out those that are around us as the Israelites did. In fact, we are called to go into all the nations. Read Romans 12:2, and explain what it means to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” How can this verse help us as we go into the world?

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. God warned the Israelites of what would happen if they didn't drive out all the Canaanites. We have a similar warning to be set apart by not becoming yoked with unbelievers. What have you learned from the Israelites' failure to heed the warning?

2. The new generation in Judges neither knew the Lord, nor remembered what He had done for them. What actions can you put into place to remember what God has done for you and to know Him better?

3. What is the difference between living in the world and living of the world? Talk to God, and ask Him to reveal areas in your life where you have compromised to the ways of the world.