

MY PURITY CHECKLIST

It is wise to help a preteen or teenager to establish clear boundaries BEFORE they face tempting or awkward situations. As soon as he or she begins taking an interest in the opposite sex, spend time together walking through the following discussion checklist to create healthy expectations and goals.

THE PURPOSE OF DATING

Use the following statements to frame discussions with your teen about when they might be ready to consider dating.

WHAT DATING IS

- Spending time with the opposite sex to discover a future spouse
- Building a friendship without the physical bonds reserved for marriage
- A process intended for those approaching the age for engagement and/or marriage

WHAT DATING IS NOT

- A time to engage in forms of intimacy designed for marriage
- A status symbol among peers impressed by those with a boyfriend or girlfriend
- A way to boost your own confidence through attention from the opposite sex

MODESTY:

Avoid causing temptation for others and demonstrate self-respect by reminding your child that modesty is about honoring God with our bodies and our minds. Emphasize that these principles extend to both men and women. Below are some suggested topics to discuss:

- Clothing: fingertip length on shorts/skirts, swimsuit (jump up and down and make sure everything stays in), tops (cover cleavage even when bending forward). Discuss fashion and basic guidelines to tell if something is modest or not.
- Books: discuss how to honor God with what we read
- Music: discuss how to honor God with what we listen to
- Media (Movies, online videos, etc.): discuss how to honor God with the things we view

ACCOUNTABILITY

In addition to mom and dad, encourage your teen to identify a close friend or two who shares the same values to help hold each other accountable to protect their purity.

DRAWING THE LINE

Coach your teen to decide now what he/she will and will not do in a relationship with the opposite sex. Discuss the following summary of the natural progression of physical intimacy. Decide together where to draw the line in order to protect purity and prevent a broken heart.

- Flirting
- Side hugs
- Frontal hugs
- Holding hands
- Arms around each other
- Cuddling
- Kissing
- French kissing
- Touching/caressing with clothes on
- Petting/groping under or without clothes
- Oral sex
- Sexual intercourse

DANGER ZONES

Create a list of strategies that will help them avoid potentially compromising situations including...

- Never be in a house with the opposite sex without parental supervision.
- Stay in family areas of the house. No going in bedrooms.
- Doors of the room you are in remain open.



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- Come straight home after a date. No "parking."
- Limit alone time to a set amount to give the relationship breaks.
- Date only a growing Christian.
- Only group date as friends until a designated age such as 16 or 17 years old.

EXIT PLAN

Create an easy way for your teen to flee a tempting or risky situation with the opposite sex. Discuss possible "code language" they might use when calling or texting for a ride home such as "I'm having a great time, but I don't feel well." This will alert you that they need to leave without embarrassing them in front of others.

GRACE

If your teen has already made mistakes such as viewing pornography or going too far with a boyfriend/girlfriend, read John 8 and ask God to help you model Jesus' balance with the woman caught in adultery. You must clearly call the sin a sin so that your teen can receive grace through repentance. But offer hope by challenging him/her to start fresh and "go and sin no more." Find an appropriate time to talk rather than react in the heat of discovering the sin. Coach them through the same steps to set new boundaries and accountability for the future. Offer grace and forgiveness, but also lead them in making a commitment from this point on to avoid further risk and harm to their purity.

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- ☐ Pray daily for my child.
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- ☐ Bless my child daily.
- ☐ Schedule and have regular family times.
- ☐ Create a habit of worship with my child.
- ☐ Serve together as a family.
- ☐ Coach my child to set healthy boundaries.
- ☐ _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Right of Passage*, recommended at age thirteen. Request the *Right of Passage* kit by emailing Emily@waterlooroad.org

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp

A Student's Guide to Sexual Integrity: God's Plan for Sex and Your Body by Jim Burns

God's Design for Sex series by NavPress

Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story by Christopher Yuan

Mama Bear Apologetics: Guide to Sexuality by Hillary Morgan Ferrer and Amy Davison

Relationships: 11 Lessons to Give Kids a Greater Understanding of Biblical Sexuality by Luke Gilkerson

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