



Dgroup Discussion Guide for January 14, 2018 Minefield # 1: PURSUE JESUS

Scripture: John 15:13-15

A landmine is an explosive charge concealed just under the surface of the ground designed to be detonated by pressure or proximity of a vehicle or person. During the war, this was a strategy used as a way to defeat the enemy. So large areas were filled with these landmines, these were called minefields. In life, we took navigate through a minefield. The enemy has planted many landmines for us to lose focus and to stray away from God's path.

1 Peter 5: 8 ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*** The enemy is a deceiver, a destroyer and he is out to destroy relationships and to entice us to sin. He is actively scheming ways to destroy our family, our friendships, and our relationship with God. He is actively waiting for an opportunity to destroy relationships that is why it is important for us to become intentional in strengthening our relationships with our family and especially with God.

MINEFIELD # 1: WRONG RELATIONSHIPS

1 Corinthians 15:33 ***Do not be misled bad company corrupts good character.*** This simply means if you have bad people around you, you will do bad things as well. This is the problem with landmines. . . they are so subtle that we think that we are capable of handling it or are immune to it. We think we are old enough, wise enough to know what is right from wrong. But this is exactly the deception of Satan. He wants us to believe we are capable to resist on our own, but in reality we are not. The only thing that can protect us from wrong relationships is for us to PURSUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. Let us pursue Jesus to avoid being influenced negatively but instead we will be able to influence others positively.

FRIENDSHIPS

1. God designed us to be in a community. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - let us spur or encourage each other to love and do good deeds
 - ASK: Are the friends you are with encouraging you to practice being loving and encourage you to do goodnees.
 - This is the reason why we continue to meet as a dgroup in order to encourage each other, to be a blessing to each other.
 - a. True friends are there in good times and in bad. (Proverbs 17:17)
 - b. True friends are able to give and receive rebuke. (Proverbs 15:31 and Proverbs 28:23)
 - c. True friends help each other become better. (Proverbs 27:17)
2. Satan's landmine is for us to pursue wrong relationships.
 - 1 Corinthians 15: 33- 34 ***Do not be misled bad company corrupts good character. Comeback to your senses as you ought, and stop sining; for there are some who are ignorant of God – I say this is to your shame.***

PURSUE JESUS

Let Him be : Your Model Your Security Your Completeness

When your vertical relationships are good, then your horizontal relationships are good. The more you are in love with God, the more your are filled, and then the more you can pass this on to others. When Jesus is your model, you will live life to the fullest. When He is your security, His opinion is more important than anyone else's then you will not be easily influenced by what other people will say. When He is your completeness then you are content and you wont need anything else other than Jesus.

Life is truly about choices and if we don't teach our children and ourselves to choose these three things can impact the rest of our live...We are going to look at and answer questions for parents, singles and children regarding friendship, dating and marriage.

COURTSHIP/DATING

Song of Solomon 2:7 ***Promise me O women of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and wild deer, not to awaken love until the time is right.*** Dating should not be for the sake of just dating but with marriage in mind. The best time to date someone is when you are both ready for the lifelong relationship of marriage, ready to support each other financially, and to raise up a family of your own.

1. Involve your community (Genesis 24: 1-2)
In Genesis 24, when Abraham was old he called his servant and made him swear that he will find a wife for Isaac from his own people. Likewise, as a community we should be involved in praying for our singles and our young ones. This will also allow us to gain godly and wise advice from our family and member of our community.
2. Set Standards & Convictions (v 3-9)
Categories for your standards:
 - a. Non-negotiable
 - b. Highly Preferred
 - c. Preferred
 Parents talk with your children, pray and help them decide on these standards. This does not mean you will make the choice for them, but this means that your involvement will ensure that you and your child are both praying for God's best partner for them.
3. Prepare yourself (v 10)
Prepare yourself. While you are preparing for your God's best, you must continue to pursue Jesus so that you will also be the best for that person.
4. Be in the Right Place (v 11)
If you are looking, be in the right place.
5. Pray (v 12)
6. Look for Character (v 13)
Beware of the following traits: spiritually incompatible, self centered, has anger issues, struggling with addictions, blameful of others, deceptive, possessive and materialistic.
Instead look for the following: loves God and people, humble, joyful in Christ
7. Observe (v 21)
Don't believe everything you read or hear about a person instead get to know the person up close and personal. Observe how they love and serve the Lord.
8. Be straightforward, Don't play games (v 49)
9. Parental Consent (v 50 – 51)
10. Consent of Future Spouse (v 57 – 58)

Psalm 27:4 says **Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.** Let us find delight in the Lord, let us be enamored by Him. Let Him be our model, our security . . . Let Him complete us. We can stop looking for love from others. . . John 13: 15 says **Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.** Pursue Jesus and we can eliminate unnecessary pain and live life to the fullest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **I AM A FRIEND OF GOD.** According to John 15: 13-16, who am I to God? How do I respond to His love?
2. **TRUE FRIEND.** Do I have true friends? Am I a true friend? How can I be a true and intentional friend to my family and to others?
Am I accountable to someone? Do I allow myself to be held accountable?
3. How does this message enlightened me when it comes to choosing my relationship?

APPLICATION:

PURSUE JESUS. How will you pursue Jesus in friendship? In your marriage? In dating?

Do I live a life wherein Jesus is my model? Wherein Jesus is my security? Wherein Jesus is my completeness?

PARENTS: How can I use this message to advise my children who are beginning to take interest in the opposite sex?

FAMILY: Sit down as a family and start making out a list of your non-negotiable, highly preferred and preferred characteristics as you as a family start praying for your children's spouses.

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.