

PRAXiS

You & me

PRAXiS

HOW TO USE

This discussion guide is designed for you, leaders, to guide your group through this Praxis video series. This series is structured as a conversation based around engaging questions intended to promote thought-provoking discussion throughout each episode. When these questions pop up on the screen, hit pause and turn the question to the group. **Each episode includes the following:**

BIG IDEA

We highlight the big idea behind the episode, emphasizing key scriptures or quotes, to give you and your group an idea of what will be covered in the video. Feel free to share this before pressing play, or after to summarize what was taught into a concise thought.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

If the video question does not invite participation, use these questions to promote further interest. These questions are simply reworded to present the idea in a different way. We invite you to be creative and present the questions in a way that engages your group.

DISCUSS

The video questions are created to encourage conversation and to allow the formation of thoughts and ideas – inviting participants to wrestle with and begin sharing their beliefs and experiences. This is just the beginning. The discussion questions exist to go deeper and to invite more intimate and transformational conversation.

CONTEXT

IN A CHURCH OR LARGE GROUP SETTING

This guide is designed to be used by a leader, so begin by identifying those leaders and getting a guide into each of their hands. If you are watching the episodes with more than 20 people, we would advise identifying multiple leaders and having them focus on a section of the group. When the video questions arise, have them turn to their “small group” and discuss the questions openly. Time dependent, ask each smaller group to share with the larger group what was shared. This invites more people to share without the intimidation of a large group setting. Whether you keep these groups consistent from week to week, or you mix it up, remaining the same for the discussion portion of each episode will allow for greater depth and increased transparency.

IN A SMALL GROUP SETTING

Every leader in the room should have one of these guides prior to beginning the video. It can be helpful to identify one leader as the facilitator, and others as helpers. The facilitator can guide the video question time, with helpers stepping in as needed based on the direction of conversation. Come discussion time, gathering into small groups where one or two leaders oversee a small group can invite quieter participants to engage and allow for greater depth of conversation.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

While this discussion guide is designed with group participation in mind, the content is something we believe is valuable for every individual. We advise watching these episodes with a pen in hand and paper before you. Have your Bible handy and get ready to pause the video. You get to take this at your pace! When Scripture is referenced, open your Bible and read along – when questions are asked, hit pause and write out your answer. If questions arise in your mind that you are unable to answer, write them down to ask later.

GET READY

Take a breath, the pressure is off. We are not asking you to teach, or to have the answer to every question. Your role is to guide, facilitate, but most importantly to **listen** and **invite**.

Invite questions. Invite conversation.

This discussion guide was created to provide direction for the conversation, but not to limit or harness the group. During the video, listen to what the participants say. Do not feel the need to answer the question yourself. Be comfortable with silence. Give it fifteen seconds before you use a supporting question. Let them think.

“When will I know when to press play again?” Trust me, you’ll know. Conversation will end, or you may even have to re-focus the group if they go down a rabbit trail. If a valuable question or topic is sparked during the video, write it down and say you will return as a group to it during the discussion time.

When it comes time for discussion, follow the pace of the group. Let them naturally guide the conversation around what content stuck out from the video, or what questions were sparked for them. You are not confined to the questions in this guide. Pick the ones that stand out to you or add your own. This time will look different for each group and that’s intentional.

Listen and Invite.

YOU & ME

(A SERIES ON RELATIONSHIPS)

FOUR EPISODES | PRAXIS SERIES 5

BIG IDEA

We were created to be in relationship with one another. Community is part of our calling as people, but as broken and sinful beings, figuring out how to co-exist and live in harmony is not always crystal clear (let alone how to love one another as God desires).

Addressing three key relationships that teenagers engage in – friends, parents, and dating – we talk through what Jesus has to say about how we are to treat one another and why these relationships matter.

YOU & ME

(A SERIES ON RELATIONSHIPS)

EPISODE 1 | ME & MY FRIENDS

BIG IDEA

Find a squad, and be a squad, that brings one another to Jesus.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:1-12: When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: "These friends understood the radical power of Jesus that had to transform their friend. They had a radical vision of who Jesus was. They loved their friend enough to do whatever it took to bring him to Jesus."

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What are your #squadgoals? What do you look for in a friend?**
 - What type of image comes to mind when you think of #squadgoals? How does this reflect what you desire in a friend group?
 - What type of thoughts prevent you from pursuing the type of community you desire?
- **Do you do whatever it takes to bring your friends closer to Jesus? Why or why not?**
 - Put yourself in the story as the paralytic. Would your best friends do that for you – whatever it takes to get you to Jesus? Why or why not?
 - Now put yourself in the friend group. Would you do that for your paralytic friend? Why or why not?
- **How can we bring our friends, Christians and non-Christians, closer to Jesus?**
 - What motives you to bring your friends to Jesus?
 - What is one thing we can do to point our non-Christian friends to Jesus?

DISCUSS

- **When you reflect on your current friend group, do you like what you see for your future? If not, how come? What can you do to re-shift your trajectory?**
 - **What does intentional community look like to you? Describe it.**
 - **Think of your current community – what is something you like about it, and what is something you believe could change to create a more invested culture?**
 - **This story is an invitation to be made right and whole by God. This man received healing for his paralysis, what has you paralyzed in life? Keeping you from experiencing the fullness of life offered by Jesus?**
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NEXT STEPS

Discuss how you, as a community, can be more intentional about bringing one another to Jesus.

YOU & ME

(A SERIES ON RELATIONSHIPS)

EPISODE 2 | ME & MY PARENTS

BIG IDEA

You honor God when you honor the parents He gave you.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:1-3: Children, obey your parents **because you belong to the Lord**, for this is the right thing to do. “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

Colossians 3:20: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: “We know that when we honour and obey our parents, things just are a whole lot easier aren’t they? Many of us have lived, or are currently living a difficult reality because we are pushing back on our parents. Paul here is saying –” hey, you want things to be a little easier and simpler – listen to what they have to say.”

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: “Paul is not saying that you have to honour your parents or else you cannot receive God’s love or grace. That would be backwards. The gift of God’s love and grace is always totally free. Paul is saying, “the way you honour your parents, is actually evidence that you do love and are obedient to Jesus.”

We honour our parents by:

1. Obeying them
2. Listening to them
3. Respecting them

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What good advice have your parents given you? That you either followed or didn't follow and learnt through experience that they were right.**
 - Share a time your parents gave you advice that you ignored, then later learnt they were right.
 - What is your posture when it comes to receiving advice from your parents? Why do you react this way?
- **How have your parents influenced you?**
 - When you think about who you are, and how you grew up, what can you credit to your parents?
 - What is something you love about yourself that you credit to your parents influence?
- **What can cause us to be disobedient to our parents? How can we be more obedient?**
 - Do you struggle with being obedient to your parents? Why?
 - Why should we be obedient to our parents? What is one way we can do this?

DISCUSS

- **What connection exists between honoring our parents and honoring God? Why should we honor our parents?**
 - **What tensions exist between you and your parents? How do you influence and contribute to that tension? What can you do to alleviate that tension?**
 - **What could your parents do, or do they currently do, to show you they have your best interest at heart?**
 - **What does it look like for you to respect your parents? Why should you respect them?**
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NEXT STEPS

What is one thing you can do this week to honor your parents?

YOU & ME

(A SERIES ON RELATIONSHIPS)

EPISODE 3 | ME & MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER

BIG IDEA

Experiencing God's love influences and shapes how we love others.

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: John 4

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: “You are loved by God, that is first, and then comes your ability to love others the way they deserve. With that in mind, and a desire to not exclude community around us, let's wrap with 3 common dating questions:

When can I date? Once you have first experienced and understand that your true intimacy and longing for connection comes from God, and not from others, then you are ready to date. However, as mentioned in the previous session about parents; if your parents have request you wait until a certain time, then you also have to honor their decisions. You can have a conversation with your parents to discuss this further, but ultimately you are called first to honor them.

Who should I date? Simply put, someone who is like you, and feels the same way about dating, faith and the world as you. The reality is, you are the sum of (or who you are is made up of) the closest relationships to you. So if you don't want to lose yourself, make sure to date someone who believes and thinks and acts like you do.

And lastly, why should I date? Here's the deal, at its core, dating is an opportunity to discover and find chemistry for the purpose of lifelong intimacy (in the context of marriage). It is actually a really big deal. It's why your parents oftentimes want you to wait to be at an age where you can understand the bigness of it all.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What does media and culture say about dating in high school?**
 - What is your definition of dating? What other terminology does culture use? What's the difference?
 - Think about your high school – what's the dating culture like? What do you think influenced it?
- **How does experiencing God's love influence how we love others?**
 - How do we change when we experience Christ's love?
 - How does a relationship change when we love someone like Christ does?
- **Why is it important to not isolate ourselves when we are in a relationship?**
 - What harm does isolation bring?
 - Why do people often sacrifice their community for relationships? How can we help our friends or family who we see doing this?
 - Think of a couple, married or dating, who intentionally engages in greater community, while still making their significant other a priority. How do they do this? What do you learn from them?

DISCUSS

- **Why do we as humans crave relationships?**
 - **What types of questions do you have about dating?**
 - **What conversations have you had, and what conversations do you wish to have about dating with significant adults in your life?**
(teachers, parents, mentors, pastors, leaders)
 - **Can you identify moments in your walk with Jesus where He was clearly pursuing you? Share.**
 - **What causes you to seek fulfillment and satisfaction in things other than Jesus?**
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NEXT STEPS

What is one way you can positively influence the dating culture in your community? How can you shape it to be more Christ-focused?

YOU & ME

(A SERIES ON RELATIONSHIPS)

EPISODE 4 | ME & MY BOUNDARIES

BIG IDEA

Rather than ask “how far is too far” we reframe the question to be “How can we better experience and reveal Jesus in our relationships?”

KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:27-30: You have heard the commandment that says, “You must not commit adultery.” But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8: God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you

Video Quote – Brody Jespersen: “Maybe what is more important for us to do, rather than asking “how far is too far”, we need to redefine the question... what if, instead of asking how far is too far, we were to ask, **how can I better experience and reveal Jesus in this relationship?** How might that change our perspective, and later our expectations of sex?”

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What conversations and teaching have you had around this topic?**
 - What have you been taught regarding boundaries from church, school, parents, friends, etc.?
 - What has your dialogue around this topic so far been like?
- **Why is sexuality such a big deal to Jesus?**
 - How do we change when we experience Christ's love?
 - How does a relationship change when we love someone like Christ does?
- **Within the context of a dating relationship, how can we honor and guard our significant other when it comes to boundaries?**
 - In terms of sexual boundaries, how can we respect the person we are dating?
 - What types of things can we do for our significant other to show that we honor and respect them?

DISCUSS

- **What's wrong with the question "how far is too far?"**
 - **If we redefine the question to as: "How can we better experience and reveal Jesus in our relationships?" How would this help people make good decisions sexually?**
 - **What types of things can we do for our significant other to show that we honor and respect them?**
 - **Why is sex best enjoyed within the context of marriage? Why wait?**
 - **What are the parameters and standards you want to set up in your current or future relationship? What may prevent people from discussing sexual boundaries with their significant other?**
 - **What role does accountability have when it comes to boundaries?**
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NEXT STEPS

Choose one relationship in your life – whether your significant other, or a friend, or family member and think: "How can we better experience and reveal Jesus in this relationship?"