

BE MY VALENTINE
***Falling In Love* • February 4-5, 2012**

ICE-BREAKER:

- Name three things that will be obsolete in 10 years.
- What's the best sound effect you can make?
- When was the last time you asked for help?

INTRODUCTION:

What were your dating experiences like growing up?

What advice would you give to someone who is dating today?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is the purpose of dating?

2. Based on God's original design in Genesis 2:24, what are three or four bricks that every marriage should be built on? Why is each of these bricks important?

3. What causes shame in a marriage or dating relationship?

4. How has the media influenced our attitudes about sex and singleness? How is sex outside of marriage viewed by many of the people you know?

5. Brainstorm practical boundaries that dating or married couples should establish.

6. Based on Ephesians 5:3 below, what can couples do to protect their relationships? *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for the Lord's people.* Ephesians 5:3 (TNIV)

7. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. What are God's desires for our sexuality? (4:3-8) How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian? (4:4-5)

When a person rejects God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting? (4:8) How can we wrong a person by our sexual behavior? What should motivate us to live a pure and holy life?

8. If you are a married couple, Satan wants to train you for divorce. What are you doing (or what do you need to do) to divorce-proof your marriage? Marriage is a covenant not a contract. What do you think are some characteristics of a covenant marriage?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

1. What are some of God's dating standards you will implement in preparation for marriage? Will you commit to dating God's way?

2. In light of this weekend's message, what will you do differently in your dating or marriage relationship?

3. What specifically will you do to apply Philippians 4:8 to your current relationships—at home? At work? In your marriage? In your dating?

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to memorize)

...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8 (TNIV)