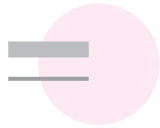


Getting to Know the Opposite Sex

LIST FOR GIRLS



Instructions: Find guys in your group who meet the requirements listed below. Write in their names.

A guy who has at least two sisters: _____

A guy who lifts weights: _____

A guy who watched—and liked—*The Princess Diaries*:

A guy who can tell you a corny pick-up line that makes you laugh:

A guy who sometimes stutters when talking to a pretty girl:

A guy who once went on a date with a parent as a chaperone:

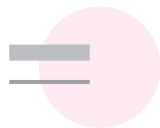


A guy who can't dance worth anything:

A guy who used to think "girl cooties" were real:

A guy who once wrote an anonymous love note to a girl he liked:

A guy who will sing a few lines from a romantic (but clean)
pop song to you on one knee: _____



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Getting to Know the Opposite Sex

LIST FOR GUYS



Instructions: Find girls in your group who meet the criteria listed below. Write in their names.

A girl who has at least two brothers:

A girl who owns more than ten pairs of shoes:

A girl who watches—and likes—football:

A girl who can tell you how she turns down an unwanted date invitation in a way that's really pretty nice:

A girl who flirts in the presence of a good-looking guy:



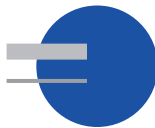
A girl who once went on a date with a parent as a chaperone:

A girl who can't cook worth anything:

A girl who used to think that “boy cooties” were real:

A girl who giggles sometimes when she talks to her friends
about guys: _____

A girl who will tell you three things about you that most girls would
find cute: _____

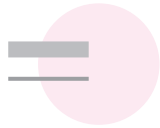


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The Ski Lesson



Instructions: Read the story and discuss the questions as a group.

Case Study

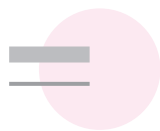
Allison sat beside her boyfriend on the bus as they headed to the mountains for a youth-group ski trip. Although Greg put in a lot of hours at his family's pizza restaurant and worked other summer jobs to make ends meet, he and Allison had enjoyed finding time for fun outdoor activities while they'd been going out over the past several months. Today, however, Allison was nervous. Greg had been skiing dozens of times, but this was her first attempt, and she didn't want to look like a fool in front of her athletic guy. He'd made a couple of comments about wanting to teach her to ski, and during the long bus ride he gave her some tips. But those lessons her dad had mentioned still seemed like a pretty good idea.

When they arrived, Allison hustled over to the ski instruction area and snapped up the last spot in the morning class. Then she ran back to where Greg stood holding the brand-new skis she'd bought for the occasion, an expensive splurge, but her dad could afford it. "Guess what!" she announced. "My dad gave me some money for lessons, and they had one more space left, so I took it, okay? I'll see you back at the lodge for lunch." As she gave Greg a quick kiss, she noticed his expression tighten in a way that indicated he was upset. Not wanting to be late for the class, she hurried off. When she looked back, she saw him turn toward a ski lift with one of his buddies, who was shaking his head sympathetically. She started to feel a little irritated herself. This was supposed to be a fun day! What was his problem?



Discussion Questions

1. Why did Allison decide to get a private instructor?
2. As Greg rode to the ski resort with Allison, what might he have been thinking the day would be like? What clues in their conversation indicate what he expected to happen?
3. How do you think he felt as he watched Allison sign up for private lessons, then hurry away? What messages was she unintentionally sending?
4. How might he describe Allison's opinion of him, not just in skiing but in other areas as well?
5. What difference might it have made to Greg that one of his friends was aware of what happened? Explain your answer.
6. If Allison could press a do-over button, would Greg deserve a different response from her? If so, what would that look like?

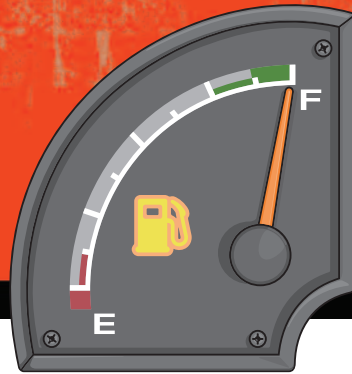


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My Bold-o-Meter



1. Mark how full your boldness tank is right now by adding a needle to the above gauge. (In other words, how bold do you feel that you are?) Also, mark how full you *want* your boldness tank to be, by adding another needle.
2. When it comes to the issue of boldness, what would be your request for God?
3. How do you intend to work on becoming more bold?
4. (Optional—Complete if you are currently interested in a girl in a romantic way.)
 - I will protect her heart by...
 - I will take risks by...
 - I will pursue her by...

Tennessee Round Trip



Instructions: Read the story and discuss the questions as a group.

Case Study

Toward the end of his first year in college, Eric met Ashley, a cute girl from Memphis, Tennessee, who was shy but gave off vibes that she liked him. They did group dates, a movie here and there, a meal or two, and she smiled a lot at Eric's silly humor. Somehow he got it in his head that she *really* liked him and that a beautiful romance was about to bloom. Summer came, Eric went back to his small town in Texas, and Ashley went back to Memphis. As the lonely summer set in, Eric wrote and called as much as possible.

A typical phone conversation went like this:

Eric: Howz things in Memphis? Is it hot?

Ashley: Yes. Muggy too.

Eric: Same here. Um. Uh. How's your job at Applebee's going?

Ashley: Okay. I made twenty dollars in tips last night. (Long pause.)

Eric: Hey, I was thinking about, um, coming to Memphis to see you. (Sweat beading on his forehead.)

Ashley: (Longer pause.) Really? (Another pause.) That might be nice.

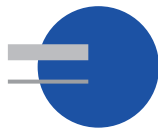
Eric was stoked. Packing his favorite tunes, he set off on a thirteen-hour drive in the middle of summer in a black car with no air conditioning. (What a guy won't do for a cute girl when she says, "That might be nice.") He occupied the sweltering hours by imagining her running to him as he got out of the car and throwing her arms around his neck.

When Eric arrived, however, Ashley just said hello and stood there like a post. Her parents greeted him politely, but he figured Ashley was just waiting for them to leave so she could show him how she really felt. They did, and she did, and it was not what he was hoping for. Basically her point was "You're a nice guy, Eric, but I don't want to date you."

Eric wanted to crawl in a hole and die. After a sleepless night in the family guest room, he got back in his hot black car and headed back to Texas. He was hurt and furious. As the long miles and sweaty hours rolled past, he kept thinking, *Why did she lead me on? How could she be so heartless?*

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Ashley originally had some romantic interest in Eric?
2. What are some clues that should have led Eric to see that Ashley wasn't as interested in him as he was in her?
3. How could Eric have made sure of Ashley's interest in him before he got into the black car and headed to Memphis?
4. How could Ashley have saved Eric the embarrassment of his pointless drive to Memphis?
5. When Eric did arrive in Memphis, how could Ashley have let him down easier?
6. Was Eric right in thinking that Ashley was "heartless" and had "led him on"? Why or why not?



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Mr. Big Ears



Tips for Talking with a Girl

1. **Relax!** Don't think you have to "perform" in the conversation. You're not trying to impress her with a constant flow of clever things you have to say.
2. **Ask questions.** Show an interest in *her*. Use simple, nonthreatening, open-ended questions to find out more about her.
3. **Let her know you're listening.** Look her in the eye while she's talking. Occasionally nod or saying something like "Seriously?" to let her know you're paying attention to what she's saying.
4. **Pick up on her emotions.** While she's talking, don't just think about the *ideas* she's discussing. Keep asking yourself, *What's she feeling about this?* And then respond to her feelings as well as her thoughts.
5. **Resist the temptation to fix her problem.** If a girl is sharing about a problem, don't jump to offering a solution. Hear her out, express empathy with her feelings, and then *ask* if she would like some advice.
6. **Talk naturally.** When it's your turn to talk, be yourself. Remember that the conversation is give-and-take. Don't talk too much or pressure her in any way.

My Conversation Plan

A girl I would like to have a good conversation with: _____

Open-ended questions I can ask use to draw her out about herself:

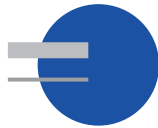
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

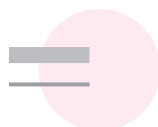
5. _____



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Quickie Conversation Question List

1. What is your favorite clothing store?
2. What is a website you visit a lot?
3. What is your favorite videogame?
4. What is your favorite junk food?
5. If you could go anywhere on a vacation, where would you go?
6. If someone gave you \$1,000 right now, what would you do with it?
7. What is your favorite fast food restaurant?
8. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
9. What kind of phone do you use?
10. If you could have any kind of car, which would you choose?
11. What's your favorite movie?
12. What's one thing you hate about school?
13. What's one thing you love about school?
14. Who is an actor or actress you really like?
15. Who's your favorite singer or band?
16. What do you like to do if you have a free Saturday?
17. What's a TV show you try not to miss?
18. What's a talent you have (such as good artist or play the oboe)?
19. If you could volunteer to help any kind of cause (such as the environment or working with disabled kids), what would it be?
20. What is your favorite sport?



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Self-Control

Encourage the young men to be self-controlled.—TITUS 2:6

Questions for GIRLS

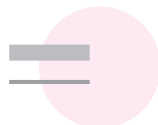
Instructions: These questions are all optional—you don't have to answer any of them if you don't want to. But if you choose to answer, then answer honestly. And if you have another question that you want to bring up with the girls in your group (and it's *related to the subject* and it's *clean* and it's *helpful*), go for it.

1. Have you had trouble with a guy trying to turn your relationship with him into something sexual? If so, what did you do about it?
2. If you've ever failed morally in your dating relationship, how did it affect you and the relationship?
3. What rules or boundaries should us girls expect for a physical relationship when we're dating a guy?
4. How can a girl help her boyfriend be self-controlled (see Titus 2:6 above) and stick to the boundaries they've set for dating relationships?
5. How might we be sending mixed messages to the guys we date, so that they're not sure if we want to have sex or not? (Think about things like the way you dress, the music you listen to, how you dance, the things you say, how you act on a date.)

6. How can us girls here in this group help each other in not leading guys astray? (Example: you could give each other permission to comment on each other's clothes if you think someone is wearing something that is too revealing or suggestive.)
7. What questions should we anonymously ask the guys in our group about sex and purity in dating relationships? (Write down your questions on pieces of paper and hand them to your group leader. Personal questions are off-limits—for example: "Brandon, how could you suggest that Stephanie go with you into the bedroom at that party like she said you did?" General questions are okay—for example: "What kinds of clothes can make guys think impure thoughts about a girl?"



A DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO.




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Self-Control

Encourage the young men to be self-controlled.—TITUS 2:6

Questions for GUYS



Instructions: These questions are all optional—you don't have to answer any of them if you don't want to. But if you choose to answer, then answer honestly. And if you have another question that you want to bring up with the guys in your group (and it's *related to the subject* and it's *clean* and it's *helpful*), go for it.

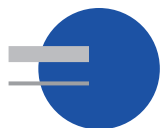
1. Where have you struggled when it comes to having a pure relationship with a girl?
2. If you've ever failed morally in a dating relationship, how has it affected you and the relationship?
3. What rules or boundaries should us guys set for a physical relationship when we're dating a girl?
4. How can we be self-controlled (see Titus 2:6 above) and stick to the boundaries we've set for dating relationships?
5. What can us guys say or do that would make it clear to a girl that we're determined not to take the relationship beyond the boundaries we've set?

6. How can us guys here in this group help each other stay pure in our relationships with girls? (Example: If one guy is dating, he could give permission to another guy to use a special texting abbreviation—KIP, meaning “Keeping it pure?”—and receive an honest answer in return. That’s called accountability.)

7. What questions should we anonymously ask the girls in our group about sex and purity in dating relationships? (Write down your questions on pieces of paper and hand them to your group leader. Personal questions are off-limits—for example: “Amanda, is it true what they say about you sleeping with Christopher?” General questions are okay—for example: “Why do girls wear stuff like bikinis and tight shorts if they really don’t want to have sex with guys?”)



A DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO.



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Who I Am in Christ

I am ... the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14).

I am ... a child of God (John 1:12).

I am ... a friend of Jesus (John 15:15).

I am ... a slave to God (Romans 6:22).

I am ... an heir with the Father and a joint heir with Christ (Romans 8:17).

I am ... more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).

I am ... a saint (1 Corinthians 1:2).

I am ... a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

I am ... a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27).

I am ... a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I am ... an ambassador of reconciliation with God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

I am ... the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

I am ... God's coworker (2 Corinthians 6:1).

I am ... God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).

I am ... a dwelling for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).

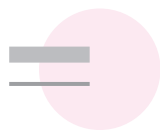
I am ... a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).

I am ... a child of light (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

I am ... a living stone making up a holy temple (1 Peter 2:5).

I am ... an alien and a stranger to this world (1 Peter 2:11).

I am ... a part of the bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7).



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