

Should I start Dating?
What should I think about before I start a dating relationship

Motives

- Why do I want to date?
 - Do you have a particular person in mind?
 - Do you have a goal for a dating relationship?
 - Do you need to date for the sake of your identity?
 - Is this just a fling, or are you seeking a potential spouse?
- Why would I want to date this person?
 - Do I appreciate them as a person?
 - Do they fulfill my non-negotiables?
 - Do I just like the attention?
 - Do I think this is my only option/last resort?

Life Situation

- How am I doing in classes?
 - Are my grades acceptable?
 - Am I able to focus?
 - Do I make it to every class?
 - Do I get homework done on time?
- How am I doing at work?
 - Do I have a job?
 - Am I stable financially?
 - Future job status?
 - Have I figured out my calling/vocation with Jesus?
- Other responsibilities?
 - Life Group leader?
 - D/E Class?
 - Graduation?

**Adding a relationship to your life is going to be an extra time and financial commitment that you may not be well-prepared for. It's important to assess how it might effect your school, work, and financial life.*

- Am I in a crisis?
 - How is my family life?
 - Am I grieving?
 - Is there a crisis that I know about in the future (Divorce, death, moving, etc...)
 - Is that something I am willing to bring another person into?

**Having a crisis can create a sense of intimacy that is not appropriate for dating couples. You should be very careful who you invite into crisis, and make sure to set boundaries if something does happen. "Be careful who you make memories with. Those things can last a lifetime" -Ugo Eze*

Relationship with God

- Do I have a healthy relationship with God?

- Do I have a daily God time?
- Am I committed to a church and small group?
- Is He first and foremost in my life?
- If He said “no” to this relationship, would I listen?
- If He told me to break up, would I listen?
- Have I talked to Him about any of this?

Relationship with other people

- Do I have a good solid group of same-gender friends?
 - Could I name three of them right now?
- Do I have an accountability partner?
- Do I have a good relationship with my roommate?
- Do I have healthy, appropriate friendships with people of the opposite gender?
- Does the person I want to date have all of these things?

Go over this assessment with a Life Group leader or mentor; someone who will tell you the truth and not just what you want to hear. A lot of these questions can only be answered effectively by an outside party who knows you.

Above all, you must pray and discern what God desires for your love life.