

# PARENT/STUDENT SEXUAL INTEGRITY GUIDE

## 8th Grade Conversation

### OBJECTIVE

Have a meaningful conversation with your student about setting standards in their dating relationships.

### THE 411

Our kids are surrounded by images of unhealthy and unbiblical relationships. Each time they see these images they are receiving a message about sex and dating that is communicating a message many of them are believing. The message they are receiving from our media is loud and clear. They are being told there is no such thing as “How far is too far” and that sexual boundaries are nonexistent. Sadly, many teenagers are buying into that message. For example,

- A 2008 survey of nearly 1,300 teenagers and young adults revealed that 20 percent had sent or posted nude pictures or videos of themselves.
- More than 54% of kids ages 15-19 say they have engaged in oral sex at least once.
- 68% of sexually active teens will have had seven partners by age 25.
- One out of five sexually active teens will have an STD by age 25.

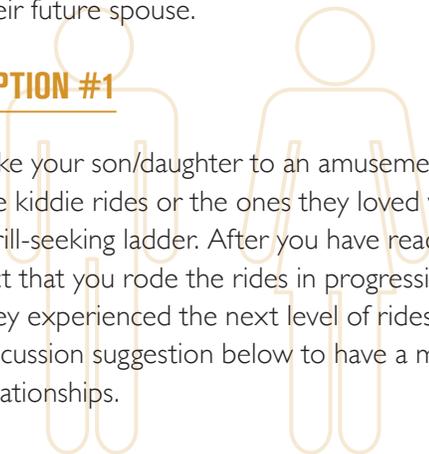
Our kids are hearing the wrong message from many different voices and it is our time to rise above the noise and speak truth to our kids.

### SUGGESTION

Approach this conversation, not from a legalistic view of “how far is too far;” rather, approach it from the heart of the issue. Our kids want to know how far is too far because they want us to define what is sin and what is allowed. The problem with giving a very clear definition on this issue is that sex is a progressive act. So rather than telling them (Example: “It’s okay to kiss as long as you are fully clothed.”), make sure you discuss this topic from the heart of, “We want you to set yourself up to remain faithful to God’s standards.” Because sex is a progressive act, (holding hands leads to hugging, hugging to kissing, kissing to making out, etc.) we need to discuss with our kids the importance of not pushing that progression too far, too early or we are setting ourselves up to for failure in our pursuit of sexual integrity. It is okay to give students a clear definition of “what is sex,” but make sure you don’t give permission for your student to then flirt with the line. Our kids need to hear us encouraging them to pursue sexual integrity and saving as much of their sexual integrity as they can for their future spouse.

#### OPTION #1

Take your son/daughter to an amusement park, the bigger the thrills the better! Start off your day at the park by riding the kiddie rides or the ones they loved when they were younger. After a while on those rides continue to move up the thrill-seeking ladder. After you have reached the most exciting ride, finish your day back at the kiddie rides. Point out the fact that you rode the rides in progression and that although kid rides were exciting when they were younger, eventually they experienced the next level of rides and no longer wanted to go back to the kid rides. Use this illustration and the discussion suggestion below to have a meaningful conversation with your child about setting godly standards in their relationships.



**OPTION #2**

Take your son/daughter to a local park that has age appropriate play equipment. Use the park as a backdrop to a conversation about setting godly standards in relationships. When your child was growing up, they progressed through the different activities at the park. For a period, they loved the kid slide and the baby swing, but as soon as they experienced the bigger slide, they no longer wanted to go back to the kid slide because the thrill and excitement had worn off. Then, when they began to play on the monkey bars and climbing walls, they reached the next level and they again were too big for the simple slides and needed to play in that area to find their fun and fulfillment. This illustration is much like how God designed the sexual process. It is a progression from one activity to the next and the progression leads up to having sexual intercourse. Use this illustration to help your child understand that they need to set Godly standards to help them succeed in their pursuit to remain sexually pure until marriage.

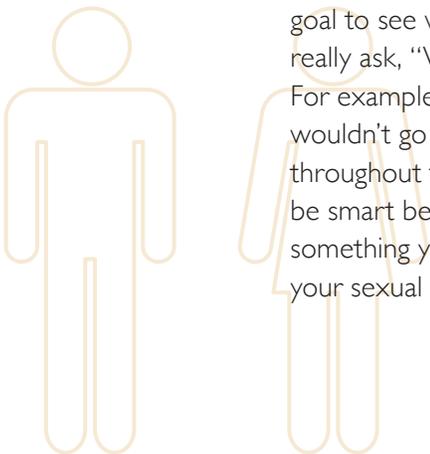
**DISCUSSION**

- ASK:** How important is it in your school for boys and girls to date?  
Do you think students at your school are good at setting physical boundaries in their dating relationships? Why or why not?  
What types of physical things do you think boys and girls your age are pressured to do in relationships?  
Have you heard of students who are giving in to those pressures? If so, what are your thoughts on what you have heard?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** When we get involved in relationships it is natural for us to feel an emotional and physical connection to that other person. God created us to be sexual beings, so it's natural for us to want to progress physically with our significant other. However, God designed us to act on those physical desires only within the context of marriage. He designed us so that when we get more physically involved with someone, we also get more emotionally and spiritually connected with that person. I wanted to talk to you today about setting up some Godly standards in your life so that you can understand what God wants for you in your relationships.

- ASK:** How far do you think is too far physically to go in a relationship?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** That is really a tough question because it's really a bad question to ask. It shouldn't be our goal to see what we can "get away with" when it comes to pursuing holiness. We should really ask, "What can we do to set standards in our life to make sure that we remain holy?" For example, you know that it would be wrong to go into a store to steal a candy bar. So, you wouldn't go into the store and pick up the candy bar and just carry it around in your pocket throughout the store, and then later put the candy bar back before leaving. That wouldn't be smart because by putting the candy bar in your pocket, you are tempting yourself to do something you know you shouldn't do. The same can be said when you are trying to protect your sexual integrity.



READ: **Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)**

“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 God’s holy people.”

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

We want to set standards in our life to help us with our sexual integrity. When God created sex, he designed it to be a progressive thing. God designed each physical act to naturally lead to the next. Holding hands leads to kissing, and kissing may lead to making out. Making out leads to laying down to “make out.” *Let’s just stop there. At this point use the illustration of the amusement park or the playground to highlight progressive acts and the desire to continue to move forward. Highlight how difficult it is to go back when you have advanced to the next step.*

Because sex is progressive, it’s important for you to not draw your “line in the sand” by saying, “I’ll do anything but sexual intercourse.” If we do that, we are setting ourselves up to fail in our pursuit of God’s standards. Instead we should say, I am not going to let myself get close to the line, instead I’m going to pursue sexual integrity by limiting my physical contact with my boyfriend/girlfriend, so that I’m not tempted to move to the next level.

ASK:

Do you think you’ll get married someday? At what age do you think that will happen?

How many years do you think that will be from now? *Parents: Use this question to point out that realistically they have a very long time to fight these temptations to remain pure. The stronger their standards and boundaries they place on their life are, the easier it will be for them to uphold their commitment to remain pure until marriage.*

What are some standards you can place on your physical relationships to help you pursue sexual integrity until marriage? *Parents: Use this question to help your student come up with their own definition of how far they think is appropriate. Of course, your input is extremely important, but be sure to not place a legalistic spin on your answer. Also be sure to highlight again that this is not about rules, but about setting your student up for holiness.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

Not only is it important for you to have strong standards and clearly defined boundaries, but you also need to choose wisely who you will date. If you date someone who doesn’t have the same beliefs and standards as you, it will be very difficult to stand up to their influence.

READ: **2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (The Message)**

“Don’t become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That’s not partnership; that’s war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands?”

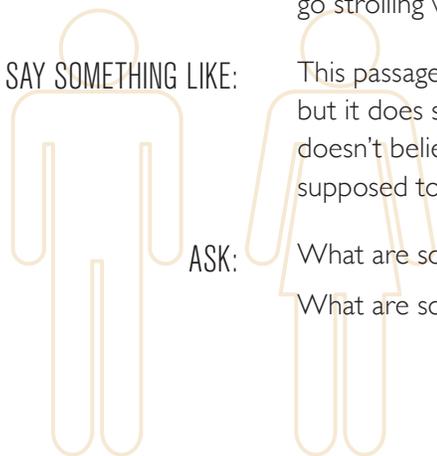
SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

This passage of Scripture isn’t saying that it is a sin to date someone who isn’t a Christian, but it does say that it’s not smart. Because when we have a relationship with someone who doesn’t believe the same way as us, we are constantly in a war with them. A relationship is supposed to be a partnership and that only works when both people are on the same page.

ASK:

What are some things that are necessary in your future spouse?

What are some things you want in your future spouse, but maybe aren’t a necessity?



**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** When you get into a relationship in the future, I want you to remember the standards we talked about today. Today we talked about things that are necessary in the person that you will marry, and you shouldn't settle and date someone who doesn't meet those standards. Also, when you are in a dating relationship, remember that you need to set standards on how far physically you will go in the relationship. These are there to help you and you and the person you are dating need to agree to have the same standards, or it just won't work out. I want you to know how proud I am of you. I love that you are serious about your sexual integrity.

**ASK:** Do you have any questions about sex or anything we talked about today?

## PRAY

Ask God to help your child pursue sexual integrity. Ask Him to give them boldness to stand up to temptation and that they would have a strong conviction to uphold their standards.

