Big Idea Pastor Curt Seaburg

Ground Rules: (powerful reminder from our pastor when studying this book)

· Study and listen to this for you, and no one else.

· Filter all of this through the lens of your future, not the lens of your past.

It's important to keep in mind that the devil cannot create anything, he can only steal from God's creation. He then proceeds to distort and pervert the beautiful things that God has given us. This week we looked at God's way for dating and courting. The modern system of dating is only about 100 years old. Before the roaring 20's, it was biblical principle that was considered before and during the dating process. Today's model looks a little like this: hook up, shack up, break-up, repeat. At some point there's a decision to get married and after a few years the marriage ends in divorce. What happened?

You play like you practice.

When you apply the worlds standards to relationships you can't expect a wedding to be the answer. It's important to pause here and remind ourselves that grace wins! Whatever your story, no matter your circumstance, it's never too late to embrace God's way. You can hit the refresh button right now. No matter what season you find yourself in, you can decide before you take another step, 'I'm going to do this God's way.' There are seasons to relationships.

- The Season of Perfection. When you join a church, you like everything about it. When you start a new job, it's the best job in the world. When you meet Mr./Mrs. Right, they're perfect. So... limit your time, limit your talk, limit your touch.
- The Season of Preparation. We are missing this on so many levels in society today. We understand when it comes to academics that preparation is key to get that A. We understand in sports that preparation is key to winning. Why do we bypass this principle when it comes to our relationships? So... become the right person, walk in love, fix our hopes and dreams on God.
- **The Season of Purity**. Stepping into all God has for the relationship. We put parameters around our passion. We use family as a safeguard. We let Jesus make all things new!

Talk it Over

- What happens when we follow our feelings instead of making godly choices?
- Pastor Curt explained things we do in the three seasons of relationships. Describe your experiences in them. What did each season produce? Discuss this.
- Don't let shame isolate you if you have followed the world's way. Read James 4:7-8. What does God want you to do now? Your Victory group is ready to come alongside you and help you!

Prayer Focus

Father, thank you for loving us. Help us to identify which season we are in and help us take next steps toward your will and way. Help us embrace your model for dating and relationships. Thank you for grace.

Next Steps

Get into a Group. Check out the Song of Solomon resource **www.victorychurch.org/solomon**. Be intentional throughout this series and take notes and journal about what the Lord is teaching you.

Leader Tip

Challenge your Group to quickly identify an outreach project for the semester and identify someone else in your Group to lead that effort. This is another step in helping develop leaders in your Group.