IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

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7-DAY DEVOTIONAL FOR TEENS

As Christian teens, you are called to live a life that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ and to honor God in all aspects, including your relationships. The choice to pursue dating is a significant one, and as you stand on the threshold of this journey, it is crucial to set your compass according to the divine North – the unchanging Word of God.

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The Bible, your spiritual guide and source of eternal wisdom, serves as the compass that directs your path in the oftenconfusing landscape of dating. It provides a timeless and unerring guidebook, illuminating the principles that govern healthy relationships, the pursuit of purity, and the honoring of God's will in matters of the heart. It is within these verses that you discover the blueprint for navigating the challenges and joys of Christian teen dating.

Use this devotional to ponder and mediate on the truths that not only shape our understanding of love and relationships but also empower us to walk in faith, purity, and the light of God's unfailing love. To enhance your devotional time, consider using a roll-on essential oil like <u>Stress Away or Valor</u>. It's perfect for teens, promoting a calm and serene atmosphere as you delve deep into the Word and reflect on your journey.

Day 1: Foundation in Christ

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Before stepping into the world of dating, commit your ways to the Lord. Seek His guidance and trust in His plan for your life. A solid foundation in Christ will help you navigate the challenges of teen dating with wisdom and discernment.

Practical Steps:

- 1. Prayerful Reflection: Spend time in prayer, seeking God's guidance for your dating journey. Ask Him to reveal His plan and purpose for your relationships.
- 2. Scripture Study: Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and meditate on its meaning. Write down how you can trust in the Lord with your heart and submit to His ways in the context of dating.
- 3. Journaling: Start a journal dedicated to your dating journey. Record your thoughts, prayers, and any insights gained from seeking God's guidance. Start today by expressing your thoughts and feelings about the concept of building a foundation in Christ for your dating journey. Write about any specific prayers or reflections you have regarding trusting in the Lord and submitting your ways to Him.

Day 2: Guarding Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Your heart and mind is precious to God, and guarding them both involves being intentional about the relationships you cultivate. Seek to honor God in your dating choices, ensuring that your actions and emotions align with His will.

Practical Steps:

- 1. Define Boundaries: Consider what boundaries align with your Christian values. These could include physical boundaries, communication limits, and guidelines for spending time together.
- 2. Open Communication: Talk with your potential partner about your commitment to guarding your hearts. Ensure you both share a common understanding of the importance of purity and emotional well-being.
- 3. Accountability Partner: Identify someone you trust—a friend, mentor, or sibling—and share your commitment to guarding your heart. Allow them to hold you accountable and provide support.

Journal Time: Take time to define and articulate the boundaries you want to establish in your dating relationships. Write down your personal commitment to guarding your heart, and consider how these boundaries align with your Christian values.

Day 3: Setting Godly Standards Scripture

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, 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."

As a Christian teen seeking wisdom for dating, turn to Philippians 4:8. Set godly standards for your relationships by focusing on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Let these qualities guide your conduct, decisions, and interactions. By aligning your dating standards with these virtues, you honor God and contribute to a relationship that reflects the beauty of His principles.

Practical Steps:

- 1. List Your Values: Write down your Christian values and expectations for a dating relationship. This could include qualities you seek in a partner and the kind of relationship that honors God.
- 2. Discuss Standards: Communicate your values and standards with your potential partner. Ensure you both are on the same page and committed to upholding godly principles in your relationship.
- 3. Prayer for Discernment: Pray for discernment to recognize whether the person you're considering dating aligns with the godly standards you've set.

Journal Time: Create a list of your Christian values and expectations for a dating relationship. Reflect on how these values align with biblical principles. Write down specific qualities and attributes you seek in a potential partner.

Day 4: Seeking Wise Counsel

Proverbs 15:22 "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed."

Don't navigate the journey of teen dating alone. Seek the guidance of trusted mentors, parents, or spiritual leaders who can offer wisdom and counsel based on their experiences and knowledge of God's Word.

Practical Steps:

- 1. Identify Mentors: Identify individuals in your life whom you respect and trust to provide wise counsel. These could be parents, pastors, or older friends.
- 2. Schedule Conversations: Reach out to your chosen mentors and schedule time to discuss your dating journey. Be open to receiving advice and insights based on their experiences.
- 3. Reflect on Counsel: After seeking advice, take time to reflect on the counsel you've received. Consider how it aligns with your values and goals in the context of Christian teen dating.

Journal Time: Write a journal entry expressing gratitude for the mentors and wise counsel in your life. Reflect on any recent conversations and jot down key insights. Consider how their guidance aligns with your values in the context of Christian teen dating.

Day 5: Divine Timing

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Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Recognize that there is a divine timing for everything. Be patient and trust in God's timing for your relationships. Rushing into things may lead to unnecessary heartache, but waiting on the Lord brings blessings.

Practical Steps:

- 1. Set Realistic Expectations: Reflect on your expectations for the timing of your relationships. Ensure they align with God's timing rather than societal pressures.
- 2. Focus on Personal Growth: Use this time to focus on personal growth and development. Cultivate your interests, skills, and relationship with God, trusting that the right relationship will come in due time.
- 3. Pray for Your Relationships: Pray for your future partner. Pray for your friends who also are in the same boat. Pray for wisdom about waiting for His perfect timing for you to be in a relationship.

Journal Time: Reflect on the concept of patience in the context of your dating journey. Write about personal growth goals you have during this season and how cultivating patience can contribute to your overall development.

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Day 6: Focusing on God's Will

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

In your dating journey, focus on aligning with God's will rather than conforming to worldly expectations. Let His Word shape your thoughts and actions, guiding you towards a relationship that honors Him.

Practical Steps:

- 1. Bible Study on God's Will: Explore passages in the Bible that discuss God's will for our lives. Reflect on how these principles apply to your dating journey.
- 2. Evaluate Relationship Choices: Evaluate your potential relationship choices in light of God's will. Consider whether the relationship aligns with biblical principles and honors God.
- 3. Seek Guidance in Prayer: Spend dedicated time in prayer, seeking God's guidance and wisdom for your dating decisions. Ask for clarity and discernment in understanding His will.

Journal Time: Write down any decisions or choices you're facing in your dating life. Consider how you can align these decisions with God's will, and document your prayers for discernment.

Date

Day 7: Surrendering Your Desires

Psalm 37:4 "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Surrender your desires and dreams to the Lord. Delight in Him, and trust that He knows the desires of your heart. As you seek Him first, your dating journey will unfold according to His perfect plan.

Action Step: Engage in a heartfelt prayer, surrendering your desires and plans for your dating life to God. Trust Him to lead you according to His perfect will.

Journal Time: Write a heartfelt letter to God, surrendering your desires and plans for your dating life. Express your trust in His perfect timing and pray for His guidance in fulfilling the desires of your heart. Create a list of things you are grateful for in your current season of life.