

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tiloke822@gmail.com

Parents, Courtship, Relationships & Advice for Our Kids

Q: My children are in their teens now and are in a relationship. How and what should I discuss with my teenage children about Christian dating, BGR, marriage and moral purity?

A: That is a relevant question, especially with all the presence of gross immorality in mass and social media and even in the interactions in our schools or camps or the office today that may give us the wrong values. The bible has standard that they should know. Discuss and pray together as to when to begin this session with your particular child. **You need to determine through prayer and close attention to the physical, social, mental and spiritual development of each child, at what age he or she is ready for this discussion (i.e., 13 - 18 years old). We believe it is best for children to learn the truth from their parents before they are exposed to unedifying online information and half-truths from their peers, TV, Tik Tok, movies, social media, internet, magazines and other secular influences. Because girls often mature faster than boys and commonly begin to take notice of the opposite sex sooner, you may decide to begin the study with your daughter(s) at an earlier age than you would begin it with your son(s) (i.e., 14 years old and above). You know your child best. We encourage you to by the leading of the Spirit, introduce the subject of marriage and sexuality with godly discretion, honesty, and spiritual enthusiasm.**

We encourage couples to conduct this study with your child as a couple, rather than assigning the duty / privilege to one parent. Take leave if necessary or come home early from work for this occasion. God gave our children two parents - one male and one female - for a reason. **Not only should your child have the freedom to come to either of you for counsel and a listening ear, but each of you has something valuable to offer him through your unique**



experience as a Christian. The Christian perspective of the opposite sex is critical to a full and accurate biblical understanding of marriage, homosexuality, sex, love, and purity.

Begin by praying as a couple a month in advance.

In addition to the burdens God has laid on your heart for your child, you need to:

- Pray for godly wisdom, transparency, and discretion for you as parents and for an open and responsive heart for your son or daughter.
- **Pray for readiness to hear and learn as you approach this delicate subject and for discretion as you make these sessions a family priority.**



Involve your child to this study ahead of time

- Tell him or her that you have been seeking the Lord to conduct this study together and explain why you believe the topic of Boy Girl Relationships, marriage and sexuality are important to her development as a child of God.
- **Ask him or her to begin thinking about and writing down questions he or she has about dating, morality, love, homosexuality, singlehood and marriage.**
- Study the bible yourself first on these relevant issues and build interest for the study before it begins by sharing or emphasizing that this will be a special, private time with him / her and you.

Schedule at least 2 sessions, preferably two weeks apart

- Schedule a block of time that will allow you and your child to focus without interruption. Home can be the best place because of the nature of the topics being discussed. Allow no interruption i.e., no handphone or TV or meetings.
- Allow between one and two hours for the sharing, prayer and discussion. The amount of time you need to spend will vary based on the lesson, your teaching style, and the inquisitiveness of your child and the questions asked.
- **Consider a casual and suitable pace and place. This creates a relaxed atmosphere and helps to set apart this time as something special.**



Personalize each study and be Prudent

- Add personal examples from your own life in your courtship and marriage without disclosing confidential information that should be kept only between husband and wife.
- Our kids need to know that we have struggled with many of the same issues they are facing and that, as a result, we have both empathy and wisdom to share.
- If appropriate, **share consequences you suffered as a result of disobedience or failure and your repentance and dependence on the Lord that helped you finally.**
- **Share specific blessings you have experienced as a result of obedience i.e., blessings of a covenant faithful marriage in relationships.**



Encourage discussion and dialogue with your child



- Be prepared with additional follow-up questions (i.e., break ups) if the first question on the outline does not provide the desired level of discussion or response.
- Remember that, in addition to giving information and instruction to your child, these conversations are designed to give you a window into his or her heart and mind. **Share your personal courtship experience with your spouse and how God bless you when you wait upon Him. Never mind if you had failed relationships and share it as a lesson you learned.**
- Whenever possible, use questions that require explanation or discussion, rather than a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer. Regularly ask your child why he answered a question that way. For example, consider this:
 - What do you look for in a possible spouse one day?
 - What if she or he is a non-Christian and you like him or her?
 - How far should we go in the physical dimension in a courtship and why?
 - Should we set rules in our dates so that we do not sin and how do we ensure we keep them and what may that be?
 - What should we discuss in our dating and when do we know if we are ready for a serious relationship?
 - What if we breakup and how should it be done if any?
 - Should I date two persons at one time? Why?

- Reassure your child before and during each session that you want to pursue a frank and regular dialogue without judgment or condemnation about these aspects of life, even areas like premarital sex, and petting during courtship, that are sometimes sensitive or awkward. **Do not use this information as a weapon to punish them later. Do not joke about it as it is a serious as well. Keep all things shared in confidence.**

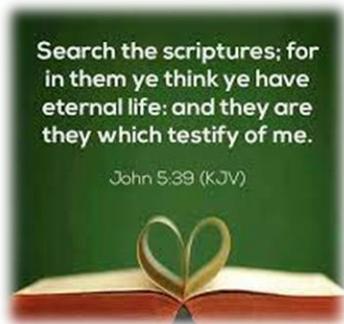
Lead the Session with Prayer and Discussion

Encourage your child to read and pray out loud during these times. By doing so he will begin to internalize what he or she has learned and to depend on God for putting what he or she has learned into practice after each session. **Do not scold or belittle them or show contempt or surprise.**



Consult and Search the Bible Together

We encourage you and your children to open their Bibles and read verbally what God has to say directly from His Word (Rom 12:1-3; 2 Cor 10:5; Phil 4:8 and 1Thess 4:3-5).



Encourage questions and discussion during the time between lessons as your child works through the Follow-Up Study and processes what you have studied during your time together. Car rides with one or both parents and the teen are ideal opportunities to bring up these topics and to encourage discussion. (Boys, in particular, often find it difficult to talk while face-to-face. Understand them and give them space and time to express

themselves without prejudice. Do not interrupt.)

Require memorization of at least one (if not two and do it together) of the Scripture references at the end of the study. **The Bible is very clear on the important role that memorizing and meditating on Scripture plays in impressing biblical truths on our hearts and empowering us to live in obedience to God** (Psa 119:11,105).

Prayerfully cover the following topics with the relevant scripture references and read them together (these are mainly my suggestions and you may add on to it). Study them prayerfully yourselves first.

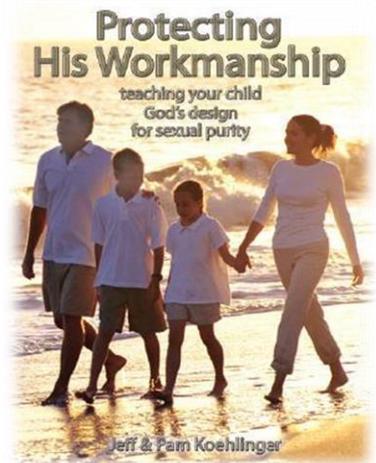
- Discussing Friendship, Courtship and Dating: 2 Cor 6:14-18; Deut 22:10; Matt 6:21-33; Prov 27:5-6, 17; 1 Cor 15:33; Rom 14:21; Heb 10:24-25
- Purity of Mind, Thought and Conduct: Matt 22:37-40; Phil 4:8; 2 Tim 2:22; Rom 12:1-3; 2 Cor 10:5; Eccl 12:13,14
- Moral Integrity, Temperance and Purity: 1 Cor 6:9-20; 1 Tim 4:1-8; Gen 39:1-10; 2 Pet 1:5-10
- Temptations, Infatuation, Lesbianism, Lust vs True Love: Prov 27:20, 7:25-27; Col 3:5-8, 2 Sam 11:1-4; 1 John 3:17-18; 1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 John 2:15-17
- Holiness, Contentment, Companionship and God-Honouring Marriage: Gen 2:20-24; Matt 19:4-9, Eph 5:22-32, Mal 2:14-15; 1 Cor 10:31
- Case Study of Ruth and Boaz, Ruth 3 – 4 (i.e., her chastity was preserved in her relationship with Boaz)
- Case studies like Joseph and Potiphar's wife, Gen 39) David and Bathsheba, 2Sam 11 and Psa 32and Psa 51) Samson and the Philistine Women, Judges 14 (i.e. a bad example, but he repented) are relevant and helpful

Conclusion

Pray as a couple (i.e., fathers, please take the lead) fervently and let the Spirit of the Lord work in their hearts and give the biblical convictions that will guide them through different situations in life and be kept in the straight and narrow way. **We need to do our part as parents and leave the rest to God and to them to either obey or disobey the will of God and bear the consequences.** Hope this helps.

Jack and Angie Sin

(NB. This is expanded and edited from Jeff and Pam Koehlinger, Protecting His Workmanship, 2004. Read the book fully for greater details on this subject.)





Richard Stock (1569 – 1626)

An English clergyman and one of the Puritan founders of the *Feoffees for Impropriations*, Minister at All Hallows, Bread Street in London, from 1611 to 1626



To Know God

“Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.” Isa 60:16

Without the knowledge of God, a man cannot know himself.

The knowledge of man in things natural is an excellent knowledge, yet it is nothing without the knowledge of self, as Saint Augustine says.

Though a man knows all mysteries, to the breadth of the earth, and the depth of the sea, but does not know himself, he is like to a man that makes a building without a foundation.

Without the knowledge of God, no man can know himself, because of that wicked pride that is naturally in man, that when he looks up to himself, he thinks he is so holy, just, and pure, that he perceives injustice, to be justice, impurity to be purity; but once he comes to see the face of God, then he sees his own justice to be injustice, and his own purity to be impurity, and his own righteousness to be folly; therefore it is the principal thing for a man to know God.

Without this a man cannot worship God rightly, which is the end of his creation, and to this purpose there are many places of scripture, *“Come, let us worship the Lord, for He hath made us”* (Prov 12:13).

The worship of God is commanded in the first table, and the principal thing in the first table is the knowledge of God; thus there is no worship of God where there is no knowledge of God.

Therefore, that man might know how to worship Him, He first declares Himself, "I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Exod. 20:2); and this is the method which David lays down to Solomon, "Know thou the God of thy father," and then, "serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind" (1 Chr 28:9).

** Extracted from *Day by Day with the English Puritans*, Hendrickson Publishers, 2004.**

SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

16 - 18 JUNE THU - SAT
2022

First come, first served
Limited to **50** campers
REGISTER EARLY
Latest by 30 April

CHURCH CAMP

Biblical Precepts for a Vibrant Christian Walk
Camp Speaker: Rev Dr Jack Sin

All attendees must be fully vaccinated

DAY 1 8:30am - 4:00pm
Morning : Message
Afternoon : Workshop
Evening : Free and easy

DAY 2 8:30am - 6:00pm
Morning : Message
Afternoon : Outing to Pulau Ubin
Evening : Free and easy

DAY 3 8:30am - 1:00pm
Morning : Message

@ **CHANGI COVE** 351 Cranwell Rd,
Singapore 509866

TWIN SHARING **\$260**nett PER PERSON* | SINGLE ROOM **\$390**nett PER PERSON*

We welcome DAY TRIPPERS!
\$20nett PER PERSON for 3 days

* Stay-in Campers : Camp fees includes breakfast only.
All other meals on our own.

Register by **30 April 2022** with Dn Yue Kay @97450311 or Joseph Wee @90171772

Memory Verse

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “**Biblical Rules for Domestic Life**” (Col 3:18-26), the quarterly theme of “Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church”, a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Sound Principles for Secular Life**” (Col 4:1-6).
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. In accordance with the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) that is effective from 1Feb, our Sunday worship services are for vaccinated worshippers. The measures do not apply to religious classes ie. Sun School and Bible Study classes and hence all are welcome to attend. The church can organize a **monthly worship service with holy communion for the unvaccinated on the 3rd Sat of the month at 4pm in church, limited to 5 worshipers** according to the safety measures. **Interested kindly inform Pastor by the second Sunday of the month.**
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 1 Aor 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
