

Who 2 Look 4 – Little Black Book Series (Week 6)

HOOK

Blind Shoe Search: have volunteers take off one shoe and put into a pile. Have each blindfolded and have to search to find the theirs.

BOOK

Proverbs 4:25-27 - *Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.*

- Ex. Incline balance pole at King's Camp high ropes course. Cross painted on far pole and students were told to focus on the cross.

LOOK

Last Week:

- Christian dating is a mutual agreement for companionship towards marriage while putting Jesus first.
- Filter! – Friendship, Group Hangouts, Double/Triple Dates, Going on one-on-one dates, "Talking," Dating exclusively, Engagement, Marriage
- Christian dating triangle with Jesus. Note: **Prov.4:25** above.

Tonight's topic: "Who to look for." God's primary concern is moving us towards Jesus and His will for our lives. We are on a narrow path and challenged not to be distracted.

Matthew 7:13-14 - *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

- A romantic relationship should not divert you from that destination. The person you are looking for should be walking the same direction as you are. Tonight's purpose is to give you some clues/indicators to determine if they are on a parallel course.

Seeking VS. Discovering

Seeking – suggests you're incomplete.

- Ex. The blind shoe search. Fumbling blindly hoping to find your other half.

Discovering – suggests adventure, an engaged life without being needy.

- The concept of the “One” is dangerous because in difficulty, we may ask the question, “Is my spouse really the ‘One,’” and consider quitting on the person you committed to making your “one.”
- A discovering Christian feels the freedom to put themselves out there to meet people, to take initiative, to pursue the kind of person they could see themselves making their “two” without needing to seek wholeness.
 - **Why?**
- Their eyes are straight forward trusting God’s plan for their lives and are comfortable with the idea that if God chooses to get involved with crossing their paths with a certain person, He’ll get them where He wants them.

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to have the marriage you always hoped for?

- Week 1 – Are you willing to unlearn and redefine what love is?
- Week 2 – Are you willing to embrace someone else’s differences?
- Week 3 – Are you willing to sacrifice your own desires?
- Week 4 – Are you willing to grow first?
- Week 5 – Are you willing to do things differently?
- Week 6 – Are you willing to discover instead of seek?

KNOW WHO/WHOSE YOU ARE

1 Peter 2:9 - you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that **you may proclaim the excellencies** of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- Purpose: Having a focused pursuit of elevating Jesus.
- You are a person of INCOMPREHENSIBLE value and given the highest purpose.

The quality of people attracted to you will be proportional to the value you exhibit.

- Rolls Royce VS. Pickup Truck commercials
- RR doesn’t need to advertise to the general public. Lower and middle class can’t afford them. Those who can afford them, know how to get one.
- Double check you’re not advertising to the average because middle to low class is who you’ll attract.
 - Yes, this includes girls advertising with their bodies. Don’t buy the lie that you’ll hook a guy by objectifying yourself, then he’ll take the time to get to know your real value.

- That's not how it works. Sure, you'll attract guys. They'll come wanting only what your advertising and you will have doomed every relationship before the start.
- You can't want a RR but advertise to the public like a truck. A truck buyer is only interested in 4wd and a bed. A RR buyer may see you, but they'll keep looking because they're not willing to settle. They want class on the inside too. Someone of high value to cherish and care for.
- **YOU have FAR more value than any car.** Someone who is looking for high value is worth waiting for. YOU ARE worth waiting for.

If you feel you have to compromise so you can date someone sooner, you're not mature enough to date yet. Grow and become a whole person first. Find your fulfillment in Jesus.

- Be and present yourself as the kind of person you hope to find.
 - "high class." - having or reflecting high standards of personal behavior."
 - ...and those looking for quality will recognize and be drawn to you.
- Good news: We gave our whole lives to His will, so we don't have to stress in "seeking" a relationship. Seek Jesus and allow Him to lead you in discovery. The right person is worth waiting for.

Bob Goff story: "Catching a Ride"

- We have to be careful to know who we connect ourselves to. We need to be sure they are going the same direction we are. We don't want to be distracted to the left/right, but stay on course.

Indicators they AREN'T going the same way you're going.

- They aren't a follower of Jesus (**2 Cor. 6:14** – illustration from last week).
 - Follower of Jesus does not equal attending church or saying they're a Christian. A Jesus-follower leaves a trail of evidence the bible calls "fruit."
 - Your conversation always turns away from spiritual matters.
- They have flexible morals, convictions, and values.
 - Wearing masks: different with friends than at church, etc.
 - They **MUST** have a stance on what is right and wrong.
- They have friends with drastically different standards than you.
- They always wanting to take things further physically.

They are manipulative? **1 Thess. 4:6** – “no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.”

Emotional manipulation can be subtle, hard to recognize, and sometimes the person doing it isn't even fully aware they are. It can be a strategy that has been engrained in someone from childhood from parents or as a defensive or survival mechanism. It is a sign someone is usually wounded, selfish, and wants control. Often, people do not grow out of this behavior. They are NOT date-worthy for you.

Even harder to spot is when you ARE the person manipulating. Just like deception can become second nature, even unconscious, so can emotional manipulation. Before you start imagining other people's names, allow the Holy Spirit to search you first. If you find yourself exercising these strategies, take a season off from dating and ask the Lord to make you aware of what you're doing and purge it from you. This is not a complete list. These are 5 of the list of 18 I found in research.

Emotional Manipulation Tactics

1. Using an emotional back door: Instead of being forthright and honest, they will sidestep talking to you and talk behind your back with others or ask someone else to talk with you, so they don't have to be the “bad guy.” They might have their friend tell you they want to break up or discuss with your best friend the issue they have with you hoping the information will get to you through them.
 - a. Your response: 1) Don't date them. 2) Be the bigger person and speak with them directly.
2. Using Guilt Trips: The manipulator wants to coerce you into ceding what they want by challenging your niceness. Can be super subtle.
 - a. Ex. “I understand why you won't buy it for me, but I've never had something this nice. I guess I don't deserve nice things.” Or. “If you only knew how hard my life was, you'd never ask me to stop doing that.” Or. “If you break up with me, I'll kill myself.”
 - b. Your response: 1) Don't date them. 2) Restate what's important to you and call them out.
3. Using aggression or anger: They try to intimidate you with aggression or anger. They feel powerful when they see you avoid confrontation. Their goal is to escalate making you uncomfortable or fearful until you give in.
 - a. Your response: 1) Don't date them. 2) They need to be called out on this behavior. If they escalate, leave the room. You don't know how far they are willing to escalate to get you to back down.

4. Using Victimhood: They will exaggerate their personal issues and even make them up. They are trying to elicit sympathy by playing weak, powerless, or being the abused hero. Whether they are consciously or subconsciously over-dramatic, they're hoping to control you by making it feel like it's your duty or obligation to protect, nurture, and give favors to them.

- a. Your response: 1) Don't date them. 2) Create space. They will play on your kindness by becoming close then portray themselves as the victim. When you show that your ability to give is limited, they will move on to someone else.

5. Using judgement and criticism: Their goal is to make you feel small and inadequate, so you'll give them what they want. It may be disguised as humor or just constantly picking on you. No matter how hard you try, you aren't good enough. They are trying to make themselves superior to you by dismissing and ridiculing you which keeps you off balance and flexible to what they want.

- a. Your response: 1) Don't date them. 2) Remind yourself of what's true. Confront them. Create space.

Emotionally manipulative people are ALWAYS self-serving. A good tool for recognizing a problem (even if you can't explain it) is your emotions. Do you feel defensive, shamed, guilty, angry, or sympathetic around them? Do you make excuses for their behavior or compromising yourself to accommodate them?

- Remember how Jesus dealt with the ultimate manipulator in the wilderness – He gave a brief and pointed response, then stopped dealing with him.

You don't have to abandon them BUT you don't have to be romantically involved. It's not your job to give them what they want because they are not a whole person. Don't feel pressure to stick around to help them – that's part of the manipulation.

5 Uncommon things a mature woman wants in a man: (listen up guys)

1. A zeal for life. **Prov. 21:25** – “the desire of a lazy man kills him.”
 - a. He doesn't settle, not apathetic, has a passion for life, he's going somewhere, he lives, “I'm on an adventure through life. Wanna come?”
 - b. It might be time to put down little boy priorities: video games, youtube until 3am, building your imaginary supermodel, spending money on useless stuff, trying to feel popular, disrespecting authority.
 - i. Note: Authority figures take you places. Little boys disregard the very people that can help them grow.
2. Kindness. **Prov.19:22** – “what is desired in a man is kindness.”

- a. He is gentle, treats others with respect even when it's not necessary, has humility, and is over the insecure mask of playing macho.
3. Sense of justice. **Prov.21:15** – “it is a joy for the just to do justice.”
 - a. He is sturdy in his beliefs, defends those weaker than himself, has a grasp of right and wrong, and is respected by people around him.
4. A good listener. **James 1:19** – “be quick to listen, slow to speak.”
 - a. Remember that girls are like spaghetti. They crave a guy who can travel with them in conversation.
5. Faithfulness. **Proverbs 20:6** – “many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a (faithful) man?”
 - a. There are pretty girls everywhere and images pushed into our faces. A girl is always asking, “Are you mine today?”

5 Uncommon things a mature man wants in a woman: (listen up girls)

1. A sense of humor about life. **Prov.17:22** – “a merry heart does good like a medicine.”
 - a. Life's tough. In many ways the wife sets the emotional thermostat of the home. Can she laugh at life? Will she make situations easier or harder?
2. Wisdom. **Prov.31:26** – “she opens her mouth with wisdom.”
 - a. She is someone to ask advice of and bounce ideas off of. She helps you make wise choices.
 - b. Ladies, if he doesn't realize this is important, he's not ready to date you.
3. Encouragement. **Prov.31:26** – “on her tongue is the law of kindness.”
 - a. She affirms your boxes, admiring, respecting, cheering you on, “you're succeeding!” He's always asking the question, “am I enough?”
4. Class. **Prov.31:25** – “strength and honor are her clothing.”
 - a. She carries herself with confidence, she doesn't need a guy to be whole, poise, dignity.
5. Faithfulness. **Prov.31:11** – “the heart of her husband safely trusts her.”
 - a. He deals with insecurity too. There are few feelings more violating than feeling you can't trust the other.

Who 2 Look 4

Compatibility Test Part 1

- Do you admire each other's character (faith, values). This is the foundation for mutual respect.

- Do you have common interests? Do you both have a quick willingness to adopt each other's interests?
- Do you have fun together? Does conversation come easily and without effort? Love laughing together?
- Are things getting physical too fast? It's a sign you lack the top three. This teaches you something about their/your motivations in the relationship.
- Do you get along with each other's friends and family? There's trouble ahead if not.
- Do you have similar views on the marriage conflict trifecta? Money, Sex, Family. These are to be discussed as the relationship matures.

Compatibility Test Part 2

- What do your parents think of this person?
- What does your accountability partner think of them?
- What do your close friends think? (The kind that are honest even if you don't like it.)
- What does the bible say about their character?
 - Have you noticed all of these are based on outside sources? Why? You will have a tendency to overlook key things, even romanticize them.

Deal Breakers and Must Haves – define.

- Make a list of both. Sign it and keep it.
- Ex. Mine included racism as a deal-breaker.

Indicators they ARE walking the same way you're going

- Serving Jesus and showing fruit – not just warming a seat on Sunday
- Healthy friendships – friends show who they'll be
- Commitment to sexual purity – must be mutual
- Honesty (period)
- Honor for authority – doesn't always have to be right. How can they submit to an equal if they can't submit to authority?
- Selfless – would rather risk friendship to act in your best interest
- Respects you – will either make marriage binding or freeing

Stop making attractiveness an idol: Unlearn the lie (society has begun) that there is a single physical standard that everyone must strive to get close to. Why is this a myth? God created us. We are His workmanship. And He doesn't make junk.

- Attractiveness is not a physical standard, but how you choose to view the one you've chosen.
 - Ex. Jacqui seems to be blind to other guys. I think she must have made a conscious decision to herself that what she finds most attractive is not tall, muscular, and tan, but short and skinny with curly hair and a long chin – voila! Her husband is the pinnacle of her standard.

Don't try so hard. Allow the Lord to take lead in your life. Discover, don't seek. If you buy into the lie that you NEED someone you'll begin to veer off your path.

Galatians 5:7-8 - *You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the One who calls you.*

RECAP

- Make serving Jesus your goal and don't allow romance distract you from it.
- Know who you are and don't treat yourself as less.
- Discover your life partner. Stop seeking them.
- Discover someone who is going the same direction you are.
- They aren't going the same way you are if they aren't following Jesus.
- Know in advance what's important to you.

TOOK

Challenge: Write your list of deal breakers and a list of must-haves.