



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

You are going to have a great time working through this series with your Middle School students!! This page is designed to outline the basic steps for preparation and to explain the options for facilitating the video lessons with small group discussions. If you work with a team, then you will want to decide what steps you want team members to do on their own and what you want to do with your team all together. A suggestion is to have steps 1-5 done by each team member and then have a team meeting to review and brainstorm Bible lessons and how best to implement this series with your students (Step 6).

Step 1. Middle School Ministry: Create an account on the RAM Series Middle School Platform (see pdf DIRECTIONS FOR ACCESSING PLATFORMS in the CHURCH LEADERSHIP PLATFORM). This platform has video Bible study lessons, and Discussion Guides to use for small group discussions. There are Facilitator Notes for how to conduct the lessons in one or two-hour formats with large group discussion, activities, and small group work.

Step 2. Download and print the Take-home Handouts: Also download and print the MS Take-Home Handouts for the six sessions and review them with the Parent Guides (one or more were included in the Churchwide Packet of samples). These 1-page Handouts are given to students at the end of each class so that they can pass them on to their parents. They explain the sections of the Parent Guide parents need to read to understand the session content and have questions to engage in meaningful conversations with their kids.

Step 3. Review the video Bible lessons. As you watch the segments, follow along with the lesson plans and the Discussion Guide (small group/class discussion questions).

Step 4. Develop your own Bible teaching sections: The video lessons provide a Bible study teaching while allowing you to expand on it in your large group time. Be sure to watch the amount of time you give to your additions so that you pace your time with the videos, large group discussion, small breakout groups for meaningful discussions, and any additional activities. The design is for either a 1 or 2-hour class.

Step 5. The Relationship Goals Series focuses on friendships with applications to dating: In the videos, the Bible studies apply the RAM to a relationship with God (session 1), and then to friends and family. There are some applications also to a romantic or dating type of relationship. The idea behind this is to help your students realize that healthy friends and friendships are a positive framework for thinking about future dating relationships. This works exceptionally well with those who have had some experience in dating but is perhaps even more valuable for younger Middle School students and others who have never been involved in any dating-type relationships.

The rationale is this: It is better to help shape (or reshape) positive and godly concepts (mental templates) of how to date in healthy ways, and what characterizes healthy dating partners BEFORE your students become involved in romantic relationships. Prior to any dating experiences, students may not understand WHY they need any of this information. But it is better to work through the challenge of engaging those who *don't feel they need any input* in order to help them avoid the heartaches and relationship tragedies that can so easily happen.



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Step 6. Meet as a team to discuss your ideas, suggestions and to coordinate classes. Different churches have different formats, especially for their Middle School classes. These videos and Facilitator Notes can easily be adapted to fit most church structures. Discuss ways that you will make this engaging with your youth, and how you want to create bridges of application to future healthy dating practices. ***Be sure to bring at least one of the Trifold RAM charts that are used in each classroom so you can talk about how to engage your kids with this interactive tool that the entire series is built around.***