

UNIT 4

Male-Female Relationships

DreamMakers – DreamBreakers

Unit 4 takes a unique approach to presenting appropriate and inappropriate male-female relationships. Lesson 16 asks students to decide upon the qualities they would most value in a prospective spouse. Then, instead of focusing on those qualities in the spouse, the lesson turns the paradigm around and has the student consider how best to become the sort of person who would be worthy of such a spouse. This exercise is followed by a lesson on common misconceptions about premarital sex and the importance of basing decisions on facts rather than rumors. The unit wraps up this topic of male-female relationships by teaching students how to prepare for a successful marriage by avoiding foolish mistakes and developing positive character traits. A pledge of sexual abstinence until marriage is presented to the students at the conclusion of the unit.

The Grandmothers' Letters in this unit approach the subject from different angles. These letters tell about the wisdom handed down from parents and how they were pressured to compromise. The grandmothers also share the consequences of the decisions they finally made to help their grandchildren make wise decisions when they are confronted with similar choices.

The GOING DEEPER sections in Unit 4 take a variety of approaches to extend the key concepts in the lessons. The characteristics of real love, the importance of guarding one's heart, and abstaining from sexual immorality are presented. An effective demonstration of the patterns of infection shows how STDs are spread by promiscuous behavior throughout the population. Saying "no" to pressures to engage in premarital sex is the focus of Lesson 25. Several options for parental involvement are given in the general introduction to the curriculum, in addition to those given in the PARENT-TEACHER CONNECTION pages.

NOTE: This unit does not discuss the biology or details of sex.

However, because of the sensitive nature of the issues in this unit, it is particularly important to have parental permission and support before teaching this unit.