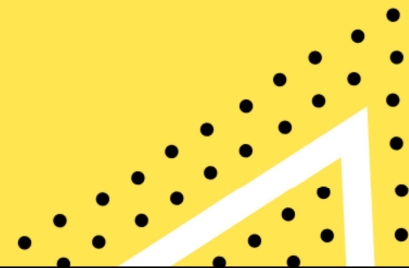




Dating and Courtship

Do you like to go out with me?

Pursuing a Godly Relationship – Session Four





Pop Quiz

*What was Cliff's definition of a Godly
Relationship?*

H_ _ _ _ God

H_ _ _ _ _ Relationship



Pop Quiz

*Reminder: Healthy
Relationship is rooted in
Christ and Christ alone.*



Pop Quiz

*What was the 5 points of
Healthy Relationship?*

- Spiritual Maturity
- Boundary
- Freedom
- Responsibility
- Truth



Dating and Courtship

Do you like to go out with me?

Pursuing a Godly Relationship – Session Four

We will go more than 45 min
Recording – only my face/voice



Session Objectives

1. Desire to honor God by choosing decisions that is based on Biblical truth and not on culture or one's feeling
2. List practical ways on how to date in a way that honour God and develop healthy relationship

01.

Dos and Don'ts in Dating

- Dating and courtship is not mentioned in the Bible
- Most relationship in the Bible is broken
 - o Adam and Eve – Eve was deceived and Adam blamed Eve for his sin
 - o Abraham and Sarah – lied and also took matter into their own hands, Ishmael
 - o Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Esau – one favour each
 - o Jacob and Leah and Rebekah – wow!
 - o This is just in Genesis
- Yet, I dare to say the Bible is the best resource when it comes to Dating and Relationship
 - o This is bc the Bible has no specific rules
 - Like no internet dating
 - But it focuses on principals with regards to relationship
 - Relationship with Him
 - Relationship with one another
- Dating and Courtship is very hard to say specifics
 - o Focus on principals
 - o Lay down your relationship life before the Lord, let Him be the one in control
 - What does that mean?
 - Can I not ask anyone out?
 - Should I wait?
 - Can I use an online app?
 - Can I ask my friends/pastor/leaders for help

- First and foremost, seek Him and see if there is His peace in doing something
- If you feel fear, if I don't do something I will miss out, 90% is most likely you are not surrendering to Him

Challenges in Dating and Courtship

External

- Peer pressure
- Family
- society expectation
- culture (movie, k drama, books)

Internal

- We long to be in a relationship
- Fear (and other emotions)
- Unhealthy life-script

Society – if you are single, you are not happy, you are desperate

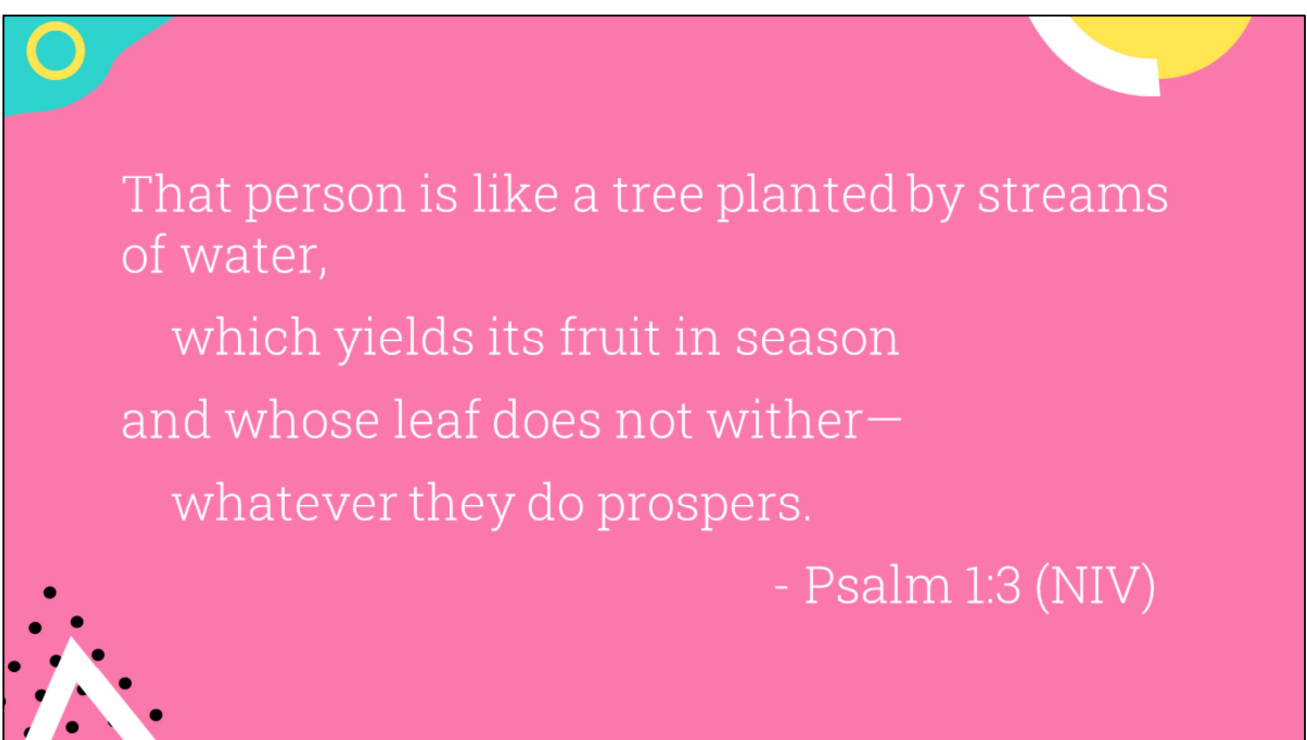
1. We fear if someone reject us
 2. We fear if he/she is not longer our friends
 3. We fear it doesn't work out
 4. We fear it will break our hearts
 5. We fear if this is really God's will
 6. We fear about our own emotions
 - Is it love or infatuation
- Unhealthy lifescrpts – I am not good enough, people pleasing

The list

1. Love God and seek Him first (Matt 6:33)
2. Have a strong Christian community (Ps 133:1)
3. Deal with previous baggage
4. Be intentional
5. Don't rush and take it slowly
6. Date the same spiritual level / compatible calling – triangle
7. Take time off to pray and reflect
8. Have accountability
9. Walk in righteousness – do things rightly
10. Reflect on your previous relationship experience

1. Love God and seek Him first (Matt 6:33)
 - Relationship does not cure loneliness
 - We surrender even relationship into His hands
 - Our hope and desire is rooted in Him, not in him/her
 - Like the tree planted in the water
 - Leaves always green and fruitful
 - Psalm 1:3
 - *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,*
 - *which yields its fruit in season*
 - *and whose leaf does not wither—*
 - *whatever they do prospers.*
2. Have a strong Christian community
 - The guy/girl is not the only person I share my struggles/life with
 - Fellowship helps you walk in the right direction and friendship
 - Ps 133:1 - *How good and pleasant it is*
 - *when God's people live together in unity!*
3. Deal with any baggage before you move onto the next relationship
4. Be intentional
5. Don't rush and take it slowly
6. Date the same spiritual level / compatible calling – triangle
7. Take time off to pray and reflect
8. Have accountability
 - Don't do things in secret

9. Walk in righteousness – do things rightly
 - Don't lie, cheat, deceive to pretend someone you are not to attract someone
10. Reflect on your previous relationship experience
 - Aka learn from your mistakes
 - Not condemnation or judgement but rather see if there are consistent unhealthy patterns/life script that contribute to the outcome



That person is like a tree planted by streams
of water,

which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

- Psalm 1:3 (NIV)

- Our hope and desire is rooted in Him, not in him/her
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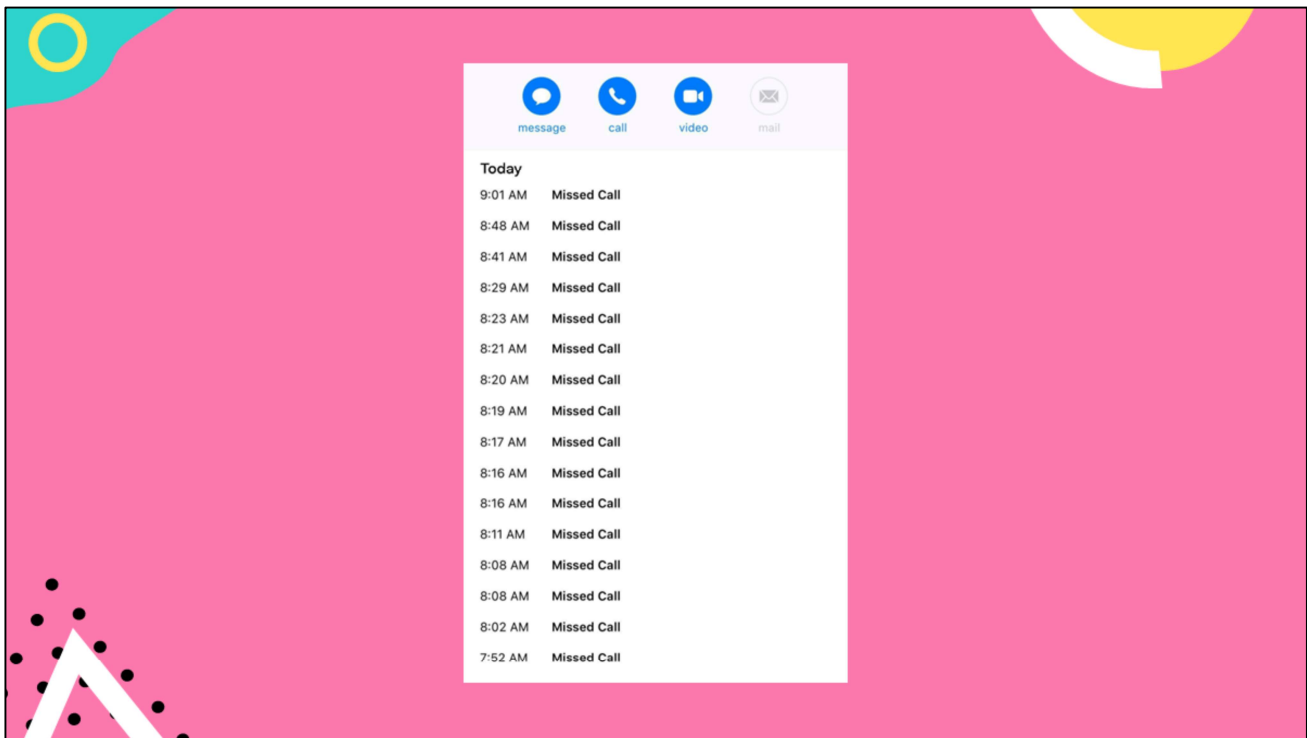
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Prelude – Cliff's dating history



- Adam and Eve



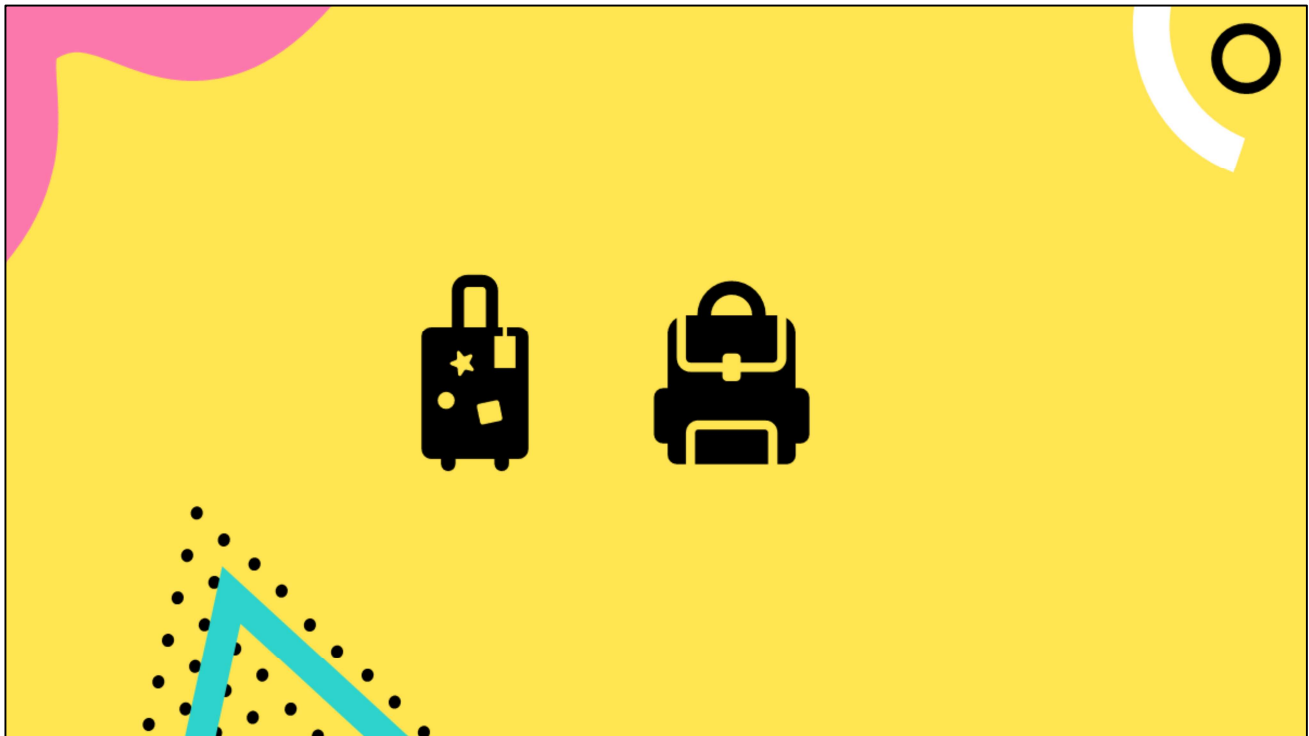
- Once call a girl 20 times bc she was late for 15 min
 1. Lesson learn – do not be anxious – trust in God



- Trust in God (and be yourself)
 1. Read this book on how to get a date/girls
 - Be the alpha male
 - You have to be romantic, should you care, be talkative
 - Girls like a guy who takes charge



- The other time before WJ – the girl I really like was head over heels
 1. She actually like me
 2. But her parents don't
 3. she ran away from home
 4. I just keep praying and hoping
 5. A month later, the relationship is over
 6. Reflection – it wasn't even a relationship – it was pre-relationship
 - Honor God – when she moved out of her parent's home – that's a bad sign
 - I should have stop it right and there
 - But I didn't set my boundary clearly



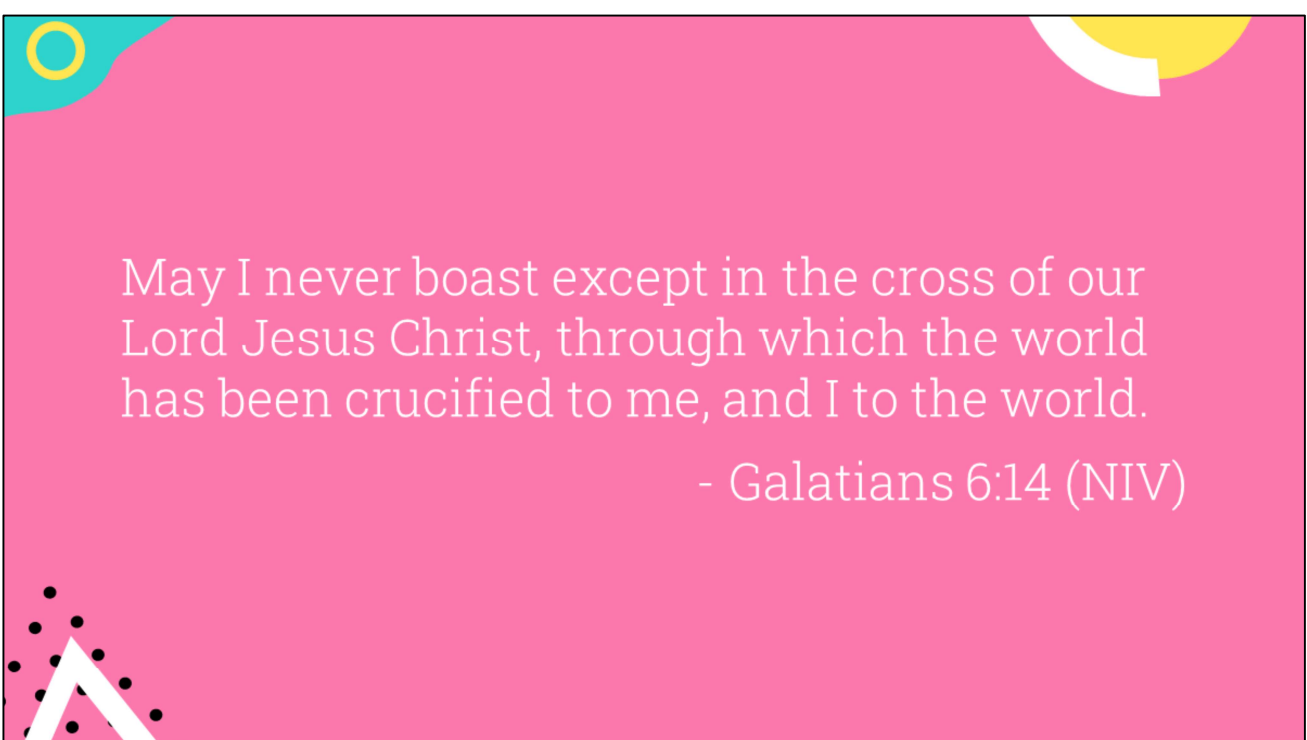
- *Reflection:* Clear out all my baggage before WJ
 - God took me a road of asking others forgiveness
 - This include:
 - Calling a girl that I went on a blind date a few years ago to explain to her why I didn't call her back (it was me and not her)
 - Going to my best friend in Canada and asking him for forgiveness bc he took the girl I like and I was filled with bitterness, hurt, envy and jealousy
- Reflection: Love Him and seek Him first (Matt 6:33)
- **- CAN I SURRENDER MY RELATIONSHIP INTO HIS HANDS?**
- Along the way, I also surrender my life to God
- Since I was alone, I told God I am ok serving Him alone all the rest of my life.
 -



But seek first his kingdom and his
righteousness, and all these things will be
given to you as well.

- Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- Reflection: Love Him and seek Him first (Matt 6:33)
- Along the way, I also surrender my life to God
- Since I was alone, I told God I am ok serving Him alone all the rest of my life.



May I never boast except in the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world
has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

- Galatians 6:14 (NIV)

This is the most important relationship you need to invest in
It has to go from the head to the heart
From theology, theory to living and dying for it



Can you surrender your
relationship into His
hands?

- CAN I SURRENDER MY RELATIONSHIP INTO HIS HANDS?

Correspondence through emails



- I told WJ to my Christian friends (accountability)
- WJ talked to her mentors (accountability)
- I waited until she wrote back a few weeks later (not rushing)
- Her mentors read my emails and my blog (accountability)

- I wanted to fly to Singapore when WJ started writing to me
- I talked to my Christian friends (accountability)
- WJ talked to her mentors (accountability)
 1. Her mentors said no
 2. She suggested we stopped talking for 2-3 weeks off and pray about this 'relationship'
- I waited until she wrote back a few weeks later (Not rushing)
 1. WJ wanted to know if this is from God or just random chance or just infatuation
 - Her mentors said she can keep contacting me (accountability)
- I shared with WJ about my sinful past – pornography and alcohol addiction
-
- Cliff's thinking process
 1. My intention was not just friends
 - I wanted to marry her
 2. I can't establish a relationship online (aka take her heart) bc I do not know our future
 - I also don't want to plan on how we can get together (trust in God)
 3. Doing the right thing in this case is:
 - Don't start a relationship (play on her emotion side)
 - Don't plan to come over or for her to come
- WJ thinking process
 1. This guy is so weird!

- Not sure what to make of it
 - She let her mentor read all my emails (accountability)

Reflection using the five points to a Healthy Relationship

1. Spiritual Maturity
2. Boundaries
3. Freedom
4. Responsibility
5. Truth

- Reflection using the 5 points to a Healthy Relationship
 1. Spiritual maturity – I am still seeking God and doing ministry in Canada
 - Ratanak, church split – deacon, leader of young adult group, anything and everything
 - I am doing less triathlon and more want to do missions (helping the poor)
 - I can easily quit my job and move to Singapore to find an IT job
 - BUT we won't have a story like this
 - It won't glorify God
 - At the same time, a 'normal' love story is not wrong. We need God peace in all things.
 2. boundaries
 - physical – distance is still 13000 km apart, nothing I can do
 - tried talking on the phone once, didn't go as well
 - WJ didn't want to talk
 - emotional – I did not tell her I love her and want to start a relationship
 - i did not try to get her to love me by telling sweet things
 3. freedom
 - I also saw a lot of guy leaving comments on her FB
 - Do I get jealous? Of course
 - But I learn to trust in God and give her the freedom to do so

- First it ain't like I can stop her if she find someone else
- Second I can only trust in God, I can't do anything, getting jealous and trying to work my way in will do no good.

1. Responsibility

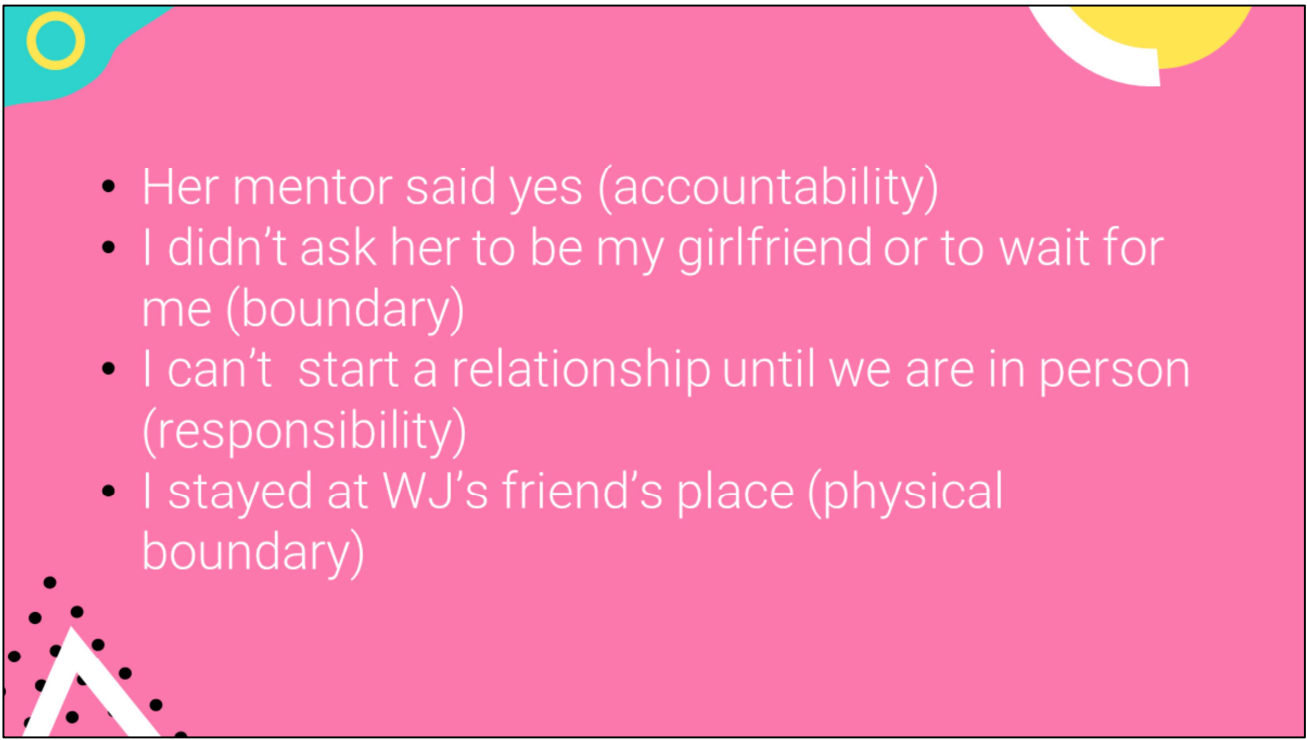
- I don't demand her to love me or start a relationship
- I also ain't looking around in Canada for a relationship (just in case this doesn't happen)

2. Truth

- The reality is that this may all be just in my head and in her head
- The reality is that it is not God's plan for us
 - And this is ok.
- But I am truthful to my feelings, my actions are honorable (to the best of my knowledge)



Canada to
Cambodia to
Singapore


- 
- Her mentor said yes (accountability)
 - I didn't ask her to be my girlfriend or to wait for me (boundary)
 - I can't start a relationship until we are in person (responsibility)
 - I stayed at WJ's friend's place (physical boundary)

- Go to Cambodia and see WJ along the way
 - I was with Ratanak and they have a trip to Cambodia for a visit – vision trip
 - Since Cambodia is closer to Singapore, I suggest to WJ for met to visit her
 - Her mentor said yes
- Cliff's thinking process
 - Not sure what to expect except finally I get to meet her in person
 - WJ arrange Cliff to stay at a friend's place (physical intimacy – keep our distance)
 - Sun night, say good bye
 - I told WJ I like her a lot but I can't do anything right now bc I don't plan to come to Singapore
 - So I am going to go back to Canada and pray
 - WJ – was hurt by that
 - Boundaries – I didn't ask her to be my girlfriend or to wait for me
 - Responsibility
 - I can't start a relationship until we are in person.

What the video didn't show



- Cliff thoughts
 - Her parents said no when WJ told them we want to get marry
 - Reject in so many levels: no money, no career, liver transplant (high risk)
 - I was in OMF compound and she called me and hang up



Did God bring me to Singapore just to get dumped?!?

- She stopped replying my messages
 - o Oh this is like the last time
 - o Did I come all the way to Singapore, sell everything, give up all I have to get dump?
 - o Is this God's plan?
 - o Why is this happening
- Reflection:
 - Here is a path of choices and paths of emotions to take and consider
 - I don't know if WJ will still go ahead...to be honest, I think it was over
 - She stopped replying, what was I expecting?
 - This is why putting/surrendering our lives, especially relationships in God's hands the most important
 - o Is there things I can do?
 - Of course, I can.
 - I can go and talk to WJ's parents
 - I can go and talk to WJ
 - o Sweet talk her into still marry me bc it is God's plan blah blah blah
 - I can quit OMF and join a real job and climb up the corporate ladder (business ministry)
 - Are these actions honorable? NOPE!

- But had my heart is first her relationship, then I will do those things to get what I want



Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

- Psalm 42:11 (NIV)



- In OMF, that night, in tears, I gather myself
 - o Like Psalmist said Psalm 42:11
 - Why, my soul, are you downcast?
 - Why so disturbed within me?
 - Put your **hope in God**,
 - for I will yet praise him,
 - my Savior and my God.
 - o Notice the hope is in God, not in the situation will get better
 - o I gathered myself by telling myself that ultimately, I came to Singapore not for WJ but for God (which is true)
 - I gave all that I have is not for WJ (only) but for God (which is also true)
 - o As such, if WJ doesn't work out, I will stay here and do the work God has called me to do
 - o It will hurt a lot but my focus is on God first and not on WJ (she is second)

As the deer panteth for the water...



- That night, I sang in tears, as the deer panthed for water...
- This is diff than last time with the other almost relationship
 - I was hoping in her to say yes, not hoping in God
 - It was hope based on not a solid foundation
 - Hoping in God is not hopeless, it is the most hopeful because I trust in God regardless what happen
 - Whether in good times or in times I have to offer my Isaac
 - In a way, that point in my life define my faith in Him
-
- I don't care how much it hurts. I came here to serve God and here I will serve Him.

The turnaround



- WJ contacted me a few days later, she still wanted to get marry :O!!!
 - o But what about her parents
- Well, we talked to our mentors
 - o They had a 40 day Daniel fast...so we figure we do the same
 - o We pray and did a Daniel fast
 - o After 40 day, WJ mom changed her mind
- I also skype my parents and told them and asked them for permission
 - o First time, WJ saw them
 - o I told my parents that they can say no and we want to make sure they are ok
- Thoughts
 - We do our utmost to not dishonour God by dishonouring our parents
 - o Their voice is important and it matters
 - o We do not rebel and get married regardless and say it is God will
 - o We prayed, fasted and waited
 - o We did not try and convince or 'sale' our position
 - When both sides are ok, then we move ahead
 - Marriage is not just two individual persons getting married, it is two families coming together

The list (again)

1. Love God and seek Him first (Matt 6:33)
2. Have a strong Christian community (Ps 133:1)
3. Deal with previous baggage
4. Be intentional
5. Don't rush and take it slowly
6. Date the same spiritual level / compatible calling – triangle
7. Take time off to pray and reflect
8. Have accountability
9. Walk in righteousness – do things rightly
10. Reflect on your previous relationship experience

- Like life, we make choices and it either honours God or it doesn't
- Discernment is necessary when it comes to relationship
- Again, focus on the principals



Thank you! Same time next week

Thursday (8:45 pm) or Saturday (2 pm)
Singapore time (SGT)

Feedback -> <http://bit.ly/relationship-feedback>
Contact Cliff -> Cliff.tam@gmail.com

