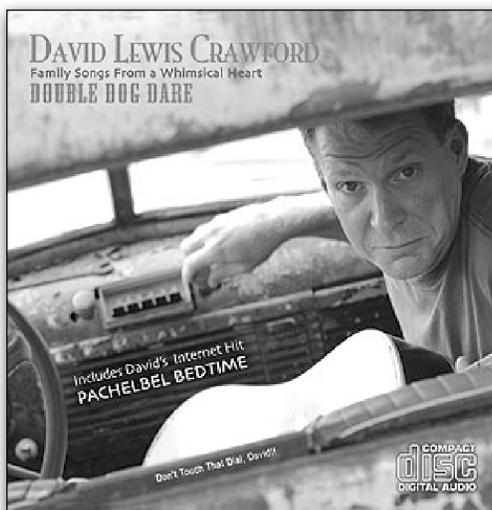


Facilitator's Guide

3 of 11 Interactive Bible Discussions on Family Relationships

based on the songs of

David Lewis Crawford's Americana CD
DOUBLE DOG DARE
Family Songs from a Whimsical Heart



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Lesson 3 – Track 3

"Double Dog Dare"

DATE RESPECT

TOPICS

- Teaching your teens the fine art and risks of dating.
- Laying down the rules for dating.
- Teaching sexual respect.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of this lesson parents and grandparents will be able to explain the Biblical principles surrounding respect for the opposite sex especially in regard to teenage dating.

OPENING QUOTE

"It is a dogma imposed on all, by the dogmatic secularism of the modern system, that youth needs, must have, and cannot possibly be happy without, a riot of dances, plays, or entertainments." (G. K. Chesterton: "The Joy of Dullness," 1930)

THE SETUP

Begin by asking participants for examples in their teen's life or their own, when they began dating and the angst associated with it. After three or so appropriate examples stop the discussion and introduce the song along these lines:

For those of you who remember what it was like to start dating, or muster up the courage to ask someone out on a date, and the struggle with turning someone down, here is David Lewis Crawford's song about an unlikely event. See if you identify with it, and what we can learn from it. Enjoy.

Play TRACK 3: DOUBLE DOG DARE.

BIBLE REFERENCES

As best suits your group, read the following Bible passages and allow a short comment or two about each, as they pertain to raising up a child in the way he should go.

Old Testament

- Genesis 29:13. Synopsis: Jacob falls in love with the beautiful Rebekah. Her father, Jacob's Uncle Laban, negotiates with Jacob and gets seven years of labor out of him in exchange for Rebekah. But on the marriage night Laban tricks Jacob into consummating the marriage with the older and less attractive sister, Leah. Jacob has to respect this surprise marriage and agrees to work for seven more years, and gets Rebekah, too, as his wife. Because Jacob does not love Leah and favors Rebekah, God makes Leah fruitful and

Rebekah barren.

- Leviticus 19:18 — "You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

Poetry

- Psalm 11:5 & 7 — "The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and His soul hates him that loves violence. For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold His face."
- Psalm 97:10 — "The LORD loves those who hate evil."
- Proverbs 15:9 — "The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who pursues righteousness."

Epistle

- Galatians 3:28 — "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Romans 13:9 — "The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Gospel

- Mark 12:29-31 — "Jesus answered, 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

DISCUSSION SETUP

Comment from David

There was more than a whiff of mischief in the air when Tom Brown (a fellow teacher) and I were asked by our school administration to write songs for various school events. We're not the most reverent duo in town, and a couple of the songs had fun at the administration's expense. So we were surprised when they asked us to sing our ditties over the school intercom system during morning and afternoon announcements. Luckily, most school intercoms aren't known for their high-fidelity, and even more our principal and superintendent have a great sense of humor. They must have been getting a kick out of it because they kept asking for more.

Double Dog Dare was written to advertise and promote a Valentine Dance. For us, the song is about the universal truths of how boys and girls view the world differently -- and thus the song's story transcends the cinderblock walls of a small school in a small town. I hope *Double Dog Dare* takes you back to a time when you thought everyone saw everything you did and judged it ... a time when you felt awkward one moment and invincible the next ... a time when you couldn't stand to be treated as a child but loathed the responsibility of the adult you were becoming. The song reminds me that although my daughter can be upset about something that is trivial to me, it can be an enormous obstacle to her. She needs me to remember the days of the *Double Dog Dare*, so her journey isn't alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Facilitator Tips

Before you begin an open discussion, remind your group of the following:

- Every teen in every family is different and responds differently to events and rules. As you give examples, please preface your remarks with the kind of teen you're talking about.
- Let's openly share our experiences and thoughts realizing that our conclusions are heavily influenced by our personal experiences and that what is a fast rule for one family may not apply to another.
- Try to keep your comments short so others have an opportunity to be involved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Shared Experiences

- Does anyone recollect the tension associated with asking or accepting, or turning down someone for a date?
- On those dates you looked forward to, do you remember your anxious thoughts or your fears?
- What did your parents tell you about dating? Did it help? Why or why not?
- Have you ever sat you teens down and talked with them about accepting/not accepting a dare? What did/would you say?
- There's an adage that says that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. In terms of relationships with the opposite sex what might be some examples?
- Do we need to protect our kids from making bad choices? How do we do that? Rather than just lecture them about bad choices, how can we show them, especially in terms of sexual respect?
- In the dating realm, how are you going to help your child protect his/her chastity?
- What are some rules you hope your kids will follow about dating relationships to protect their chastity? How might you teach your kids these rules without lecturing?
- How can we teach out kids to respectfully ask for a date, accept a date, or turn a date down?
- Tradition claims that it's the girl's responsibility for establishing respect or the lack of it on a date. Do you agree? What role does the boy play? How can a boy set the level of respect on a date? How do we teach that?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Bible and Church Teaching

- Reflecting on the Bible verses mentioned earlier and others, what does the Bible say about this topic?
- What does our Church teach about this topic?

MORAL PREMISE

Taking risks when you're not in control can lead to disastrous results; but
Taking risks when you are in control can lead to miraculous results.

FINAL THOUGHT

If someone is not "cool," they are still a person loved by God, lest we forget that "there, but for the grace of God, go I"—the physically or mentally handicapped, the homeless, the discouraged, the abandoned, the outcast. When we love "the least of these," we love Christ himself!

CLOSING PRAYER

Oh, Lord, You were compassionate to the widow, the Gentile, the sick, the poor, the disadvantaged, and all those of low degree. Help us to respect the dignity of all people, including ourselves. Help us to show that respect by following Your rules of engagement with our fellow human beings and help us teach younger ones to protect their chastity. And, by our example, may we lead many into your righteous Kingdom! Amen

SONG SYNOPSIS

Stanza 1: My friends Double Dog Dare me to ask the prettiest girl in the school—five feet two, light brown hair, blue eyes—to the Valentine Dance.

Stanza 2: To my surprise, she says, "Yes!" But, she doesn't look happy about it, even rolls her eyes as I high-five my friends.

Stanza 3: We each show up at the dance dressed way cool; right away she lets me know that I am not to stare at her and nor put my hands on her. The only reason she said, "Yes" to our date was her friends Double Dog Dared her to take the date.

Refrain 1: It was a Double Dog Dare that got me to the Valentine Dance with the prettiest girl in the school. My friends had dared me once, twice, and even three times, but I refused, because she would obviously refuse me, until they invoked the Double Dog Dare. I owed this miracle date to... the Double Dog Dare!

Refrain 2: It was a Double Dog Dare that got her to say, "Yes," to me. Her friends set her up on a DDD. They dared her once, twice, even three times. She could have gone to the dance with any boy in the school, but she took the Double Dog Dare and ended up with me. I love the Double Dog Dare! It worked for me!