

## **“Stories of Sex and Dating”** by Carol Duerksen

### **MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:**

- 1 Copies of the summer issue of *With* for each person. If your youth do not get *With Magazine*, email Carol Duerksen for a copy of the two stories used in this session: carold@mennoniteusa.org
- 2 Be prepared to tell a personal story or invite one or more other persons in to tell a personal story that focuses on the theme of sex and dating. It should not be preachy, but rather an open and vulnerable account of struggles, successes and failures in this aspect of life.
- 3 Paper and pencils for each student

### **FOCUS:**

- 1 Begin the class time with a prayer:

*God, we invite your Spirit to be with us during our time together. May we share openly, may we learn from each other, and may we hear your call to wholeness in our lives. Amen.*

- 2 Introduce the session by saying that this will be a time of sharing, hearing, and reading stories of people’s experiences with sex and dating. Explain that the point of the session is to learn from the stories and understand how those learnings might apply to our lives.
- 3 Tell your own story, or invite your guest(s) to share.

Invite youth to respond or ask questions.

- 4 Hand out the *With* magazines. Ask half of the students to silently read “Worth Dating” and the other half “From Dark Corners of Risk to Light of Day.” When they are done reading, ask each group to summarize their story for the other group.

Invite youth to comment on or ask questions about the stories.

- 5 Hand out paper and pencils. Ask youth to write down a brief “sex and dating” story or comment. These stories or comments could be anything, both positive and negative, good news and bad, thoughts or questions.

They should not sign the papers.

- 6 Collect the papers, read and discuss. Your guests could be part of this discussion as well. View this as a time to find out and share aspects of each other’s lives. You may want to divide into small groups of guys only and girls only if that will help facilitate open discussion.

- 7 Bring the group together. Summarize the session and make a list: What did they hear? What might be “take-away” lessons?
- 8 *Close with this prayer: God, we invite your Spirit to be with us as we leave this place. May we live your call to wholeness in our lives. Amen.*