



TIMING A TWO-HOUR CLASS for SINGLE PARENTS

*The distinction for Single Parent Classes is that there is no time given for Couple Huddle. In groups with both parents the Couple Huddle is 10-12 minutes for couples right after Small Groups.

STANDARD TIME LENGTHS:

1. Each topic podcast generally is one 23-25 -minute podcast.

2. *There are three exceptions:* The topic of *Sex* is two 25-minute podcasts and the topic of *Dating* is also two 25-minute podcasts. *Aggressive Girls, Clueless Boys* is arranged into a two-week format, with each week including almost 45 minutes of podcast time.

After pre-listening to the podcasts make a decision regarding how much time you have to cover each topic. Some facilitators make time for only one broadcast per topic. That is your decision.

The topic of Aggressive Girls/Clueless Boys is large ground to cover (appearance, sex, social behavior, emotions, social media, parental boundaries, Proverbs, etc.); therefore, each class has more podcast listening time. Discussion time is tighter but the Agenda given is structured so as to help you get that done. Pre-listen then decide how you want to plan this topic.

Beyond these three topics these are the important things to remember as you time your two hours:

1. Hospitality for 10-12 minutes at the beginning of the meeting is important.
2. Core times are the PODCAST and SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION. A two hour class contains enough time to get to both and have time left for Large Group discussion right after beginning prayer when you have time to check up on everyone, asking how things are going at home, and allowing friendly sharing together as a large group. Allow 15+ minutes if your parents have a need or desire to talk.
3. Generally for a 25- minute podcast get started no later than 40 minutes into your meeting. Later, this will allow 30 minutes for SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION. SMALL GROUPS are the backbone of Parents of Teens. They are also where you can fudge on time, either shortening the length by a few minutes or adding minutes if you need so as to stay on schedule. Keep an eye on your clock.

***SAMPLE 2-HOUR TIMELINE FOR SINGLE PARENT GROUPS (NOT COUPLES)**

7:00-7:15 p.m. Gathering, refreshments, sign attendance, Name tags, etc.

7:15-30 p.m. Everyone is seated, introduce new attenders, welcome and prayer, announcements, etc.

7:30-7:45 p.m. Catch up with parents on what's going on at home; any success stories; Intro to today's topic; reading from other resources

7:45-8:10 p.m. Listen to podcast

8:10-8:35 p.m. Small Groups

8:40-8:55 p.m. Gather together for questions and impressions and results of Small Group discussion. Does anyone have thoughts about the topic? Fears? New ideas?

*On topics when the podcast takes more time than 25 minutes use a few minutes of your hospitality time and a shorter introduction to the topic to carve out more time in your two hour time frame for the podcast.

You may also consider making an announcement in an e-mail to everyone the day or two before class that the next topic is a longer podcast and that you will begin the podcast at a specific time at the next class (say 7:25 p.m.). This heads up may help them get to class and get their cup of coffee quickly in preparation. You could also make an announcement the week ahead of time.