

DARRELL JACKSON

Before
We go  Too
Far

- A Practical Checklist for
- Christian Singles

WORKBOOK OUTLINE

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Workbook Outline

The information in this outline is designed to serve as a companion guide to assist you with taking your clients or team members through the workbook. In the pages that follow, you will receive the basic structure of each chapter, and the resources and exercises that form a sort of “cheat sheet” as you work through the material together.

Content Breakdown

- **Checkpoint #1:** *Who Am I?*
- **Checkpoint #2:** *How Do You See Them Now? (Pre-Assessment Questions)*
- **Checkpoint #3:** *General Profile Questions*
- **Checkpoint #4:** *Male & Female Specific Questions*
- **Checkpoint #5:** *Extras... Let’s Talk About It*
- **Checkpoint #6:** *How Do You See Them Now? (Post-Assessment Questions)*
- **Checkpoint #7:** *What Have You Discovered?*
- **Checkpoint #8:** *Helpful Tools*

NOTE: The chapters in this manual are called **Checkpoints**. Other than the Helpful Resources section at the end of this workbook, the **Checkpoint sections** contain one or more of the following sections:

- ⇒ **Point to Ponder:** Helps shape your mind for the material in each section.
- ⇒ **Tune-Ups:** Sub-sections in the chapters
- ⇒ **Putting in the Work:** Helps engage your head, heart, and hands through a series of practical exercises.
- ⇒ **Putting Things into Perspective:** Helps drive home the message of the work engaged in through a series of questions.
- ⇒ **Prayer Time:** Helps connect you to the Lord in Whom you will find the wisdom and strength needed to apply the lessons learned.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #1 – Who Am I?

Point to Ponder

I have heard stories of people who have dreamed of being married since they were children, only to grow up, and begin a dating relationship that did not last 6–12 months. Couples I have spoken to who have experienced this type of short-lived relationship, oftentimes say that: (1) they met the real person they were dating after sometime and couldn't handle what they saw, (2) they were trying to make the other person become something they wanted but failed, or (3) through a series of events the individual discovered that they were not ready to commit because their life was broken and needed to be repaired; they did not know who they were! Many people are good at seeing how much someone else needs to change but can't at all see the holes in their own life. However, before we begin pointing fingers at others, we should first look at ourselves in the mirror to discover and repair the areas that are damaged by our past and present so that we can become whole.

Tune-Up 1: Putting in the Work

1.1 The Real YOU Personally: Who Do I Say I Am? How **YOU** see you: **Uniquely You** is an assessment tool that is designed to assist in knowing both your natural abilities and spiritual gifts. It includes:

- DISC Assessment
- Spiritual Gifts Assessment

1.2 The Real YOU Communally: Who Do They Say I Am? How **YOU & OTHERS** see you: The **Johari Window** is a communication tool designed to assist in increasing your self-awareness, self-perception, and mutual understanding with others.

1. **Overview of the Johari Window's Four-Quadrants**

- Open Area
- Blind Area
- Hidden Area
- Unknown Area

2. **The Mirror**

- Use the Mirror chart below to list positive and negative behaviors so that you can better understand how **YOU & OTHERS** see you (Open Areas), how **OTHERS** see you (Blind Areas), how **YOU** see yourself (Hidden Areas), and new discoveries that **YOU** are making about yourself as you experience life (Unknown Areas).

1.3 The Real YOU Biblically: Who Does God Say I Am? How **GOD** sees you: The **Bible** is God's Word in which we will use selected passages in the **Biblical Insights** section in order to give God's truth about you and your purpose.

Tune-Up 2: Putting Things Into Perspective

2.1 What Did I Learn?

- Complete this section with practical responses based on the lessons from this chapter, using the Scriptures and principles gleaned from subsection 1.5 in this section.

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Use this space for specific and honest prayer with the Lord, grounded in the lessons you've learned or would like to learn from what you have engaged in this chapter.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #2 – How Do You See Them Now? (Pre-Assessment Questions)

Point to Ponder

Many times, when people want to be in a relationship, they will enter the relationship with their eyes “wide shut” and overlook obvious “positive” and “negative” behavior patterns because of their strong desire for companionship. Because you may not have a lot of previous knowledge about the person you are interested in, this section is designed to help you capture your initial “thoughts” and “feelings” about the person through your personal survey of their observable “Qualitative” and “Questionable” Qualities. While no one is perfect, and we are all still works in progress, it is imperative that you be prayerful and fair in your assessments. However, please do not overlook the obvious positive and negative things that God may be showing you, because some things about the person’s behavior may or may not get better with time!

Tune-Up 1: Putting In The Work

1.1 The GRID

To help you get the most out of this section, please feel free to list other qualities that you see, or feelings that you have that may not be presented in the information provided. Listing as much information as possible in the Grid Chart⁴ will be helpful because you will reference it in the last section of this manual.

- Qualitative Qualities & Questionable Qualities
- Lists 1 & 2

Tune-Up 2: Putting Things Into Perspective

- Use this section to answer the questions below about your current perception of the person you are dating, desiring to date, or marry.

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Use this space for specific and honest prayer with the Lord, grounded in the lessons you’ve learned or would like to learn from what you have engaged in this chapter.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #3 – Who Am I?

(General Profile Questions)

Point to Ponder

Do you really know the person you have eyes for? Then consider this... For about 5 years, I had the opportunity to work as a Private Investigator (P.I.) for a private firm. And during my time at the company, I learned some valuable investigative skills. One skill that helped me become a successful P.I. at this company is called Skip Tracing. Simply put, Skip Tracing is an action taken to locate people who are deemed “untraceable.” In short, because I was trained to exercise patience while following the clues, ask and answer the right questions, and to leave no stone left unturned while working a case, I was able to find all the details needed about a person, and close most of my cases fast. When it comes to relationships, although you may not be a trained P.I., I do believe that you should, in a sense, see yourself as a sort of “Relationship P.I.,” an investigator who intentionally seeks to ask and answer the right questions of your potential companion to discover important facts about them. Beloved, when it comes to your future, you need to know as many of the facts as possible! Don’t miss these “critical clues” needed to assist you in knowing if the person you are interested in is worth the investment of your time and emotional energy!

Tune-Up 1: Putting In The Work

- General Questions Chart This is not an exhaustive list of areas that could be explored, but the information listed is designed to help you take the first steps in asking and answering the right questions by helping you to think critically through some of the “overt” & “covert” dimensions of your potential mate.

Tune-Up 2: Putting Things Into Perspective

- Questions to Consider – What Did I Learn?
 - 1.1 **Category #1: The Conduct** – How Do They Act?
 - 2.1 **Category #2: The Character** – Are Their Godly Traits Evident?
 - 3.1 **Category #3: The Conversation** – How Do They Communicate?
 - 4.1 **Category #4: The Community** – How Do Others See Them & Engage With Them?
 - 5.1 **Category #5: The Commitment** – Who/What Are They Dedicated To?
 - 6.1 **Category #6: The Contentment** – What Gives Them Satisfaction?
 - 7.1 **Category #7: The Conversion** – Have They Been Changed?

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Use this space for specific and honest prayer with the Lord that expresses your desire for the person you are dating, desiring to date, or marry. It should be grounded in the lessons you’ve learned or would like to learn from what you have engaged in this chapter.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #4 – Male & Female Specific Questions

Point to Ponder

In Genesis 1:26-28, the Bible tells us that God created the first couple, Adam & Eve, in His own image as “male” and “female.” The “image” of in Genesis is not a “physical” likeness, but instead God created Adam and Eve as beings who reflected His mental, moral, and social attributes. Simply put, Adam and Eve, and every human being since then, all possess God’s mental, moral, and social attributes. We all have a will (*volition: the power to make decisions*), the ability to know right from wrong, and a longing to live in community. While God created the first couple with reflective attributes, He also created them in form and in function “distinctively” different. In their “essence,” man and woman were created equally, but in “function” God created them differently (Gen. 2:18-25; 3:16; Eph. 5:21-33).

Tune-Up 1: Putting In The Work

- 1.1 Male Specific Questions:** The list of questions below is not exhaustive but is designed to be a starting point for additional questions and deeper conversations that you and the person you are dating, or desiring to date or marry, should have. The questions in this section are designed to outline the role and responsibilities of the male in the relationship.
- 2.1 Female Specific Questions:** The list of questions below is not exhaustive but is designed to be a starting point for additional questions and deeper conversations that you and the person you are dating, or desiring to date or marry, should have. The questions in this section are designed to outline the role and responsibilities of the female in the relationship.

Tune-Up 2: Putting Things Into Perspective

- **Questions to Consider** – What Did I Learn?

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Use this space for specific and honest prayer with the Lord that expresses your desire for the person you are dating, desiring to date, or marry. It should be grounded in the lessons you’ve learned or would like to learn from what you have engaged in this chapter.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #5 – Extras...Let’s Talk About It

Point to Ponder

“Why put off for tomorrow, what can and should be done today...” is a statement that we have used over the years to emphasize the “urgency of the now” ... the importance of not procrastinating or delaying in doing something that is necessary or important. Because marriage is meant to be a lifelong commitment, it is both very necessary and important that you start now *asking* and *answering* as many questions as possible that you have about your potential mate before you say, “I Do!” Statistics show that *asking* and *answering* critical questions, will give you more of the insights needed to make a better “faith decision” on whether God or your flesh is leading this decision to marry or date the person of interest.

Tune-Ups 1 – 2

1.1 Extras...Let’s Talk About It

Note that the sets of questions presented in each of the categories, are designed to assist with both “Putting In The Work” and “Putting Things Into Perspective,” due to their practical and sometimes introspective nature. The key to making the most of this section is to explain your answers and to always provide solutions when possible.

- Faith
- Family
- Friends
- Finances
- Fitness (Physical & Mental)
- Fire
- Future

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Take some time to write a short prayer that expresses your desire for the Lord to give you wisdom in the major categories of this section, and for future conversations surrounding these topics.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #6 – How Do You See Them Now? (Post-Assessment Questions)

Point to Ponder

Whether we would like to admit it or not, we all have biases and preconceived ideas about people before we spend time getting to know the truth about them. And based on our observations, sometimes our intuitions about a person are correct, and at other times they are incorrect. So that is why it is always a good idea to make it a habit to spend time with a person before we begin allowing our own unconfirmed feelings, or the unfair projections of others, to aid in our proclivity to destroy someone’s reputation. So, what did you discover?

Tune-Up 1

1.1 The Grid

- During Checkpoint #2, “How Do You See Them Now,” you listed your initial thoughts about the person you are dating, desiring to date, or marry. Now that you have spent a considerable amount of time with this individual, has your perspective changed about their behavior?
 - Qualitative Qualities & Questionable Qualities
 - Lists 1 & 2

Tune-Up 2: Putting Things Into Perspective

- **Questions to Consider** – What Did I Learn?
 - Look back at your initial observations of the person in your Pre-Assessment and compare your answers above with those you listed in that survey.

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Take some time to write down and pray through at least three (3) areas that were revealed in this section in which you need more clarity, direction, or peace from the Lord. Remember to be specific and honest with the Lord and with yourself. As you are able, share those areas with someone spiritual who will help keep you accountable.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #7 – What Have You Discovered?

Point to Ponder

In our busy world that is filled with many distractions, it is easy for us to lose our way, and fail to slow down long enough to reflect on the things that really matter. And because this routine happens for us more times than we would like to admit, we often find ourselves in many situations that we could have avoided, which leaves us asking, “Would things be different, if I had slowed down long enough to acquire and apply wisdom?” When it comes to your relational future, it is very important to pray and process through as many questions as you have about a potential mate, both individually and with a trusted support system. Doing so will give you time to hear from God, and the opportunity to rest in knowing that you have counted the costs before entering a relationship.

Tune-Ups 1 – 2

1.1 Extras...Let’s Talk About It

Summarize all the information that you have discovered from the previous sections about yourself and the person you are dating, desiring to date, or marry. This section is all about you, so take time to reflect on:

- The time that you spent asking and answering questions,
- How you felt as you asked and answered those questions, and
- How you feel now about the relationship.

Briefly summarize 3–4 major discoveries that you learned from each chapter of the workbook. This includes all 7 sections of Checkpoint #3, and the Male & Female Specific Questions of Checkpoint #4.

Tune-Up 3: Prayer Time

- Take some time to write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for extending His wisdom to you as you have journeyed through this workbook. Praise Him for answered prayers, and for how He will continue to direct you throughout your future relationships.

Before We Go Too Far: A Practical Checklist for Christian Singles

“WORKBOOK OUTLINE”

Checkpoint #8 – Helpful Tools

Point to Ponder

“I should have caught that before I married them... If only someone would have told me, I could have made a better decision!” There are many people who live in the land of “should have,” “would have,” and “could have” because either by omission or commission, they did not receive the proper information needed to make an informed decision about the person they decided to date or marry. For those desiring to date or marry someone in the future, or even for those who are already dating someone or married, the Helpful Tools section is a great resource to assist you in your journey.

Instructions

Use the resources below to further your relational and spiritual growth in the areas of dating and marriage, and on how to engage in and maintain a Christ-centered relationship.

- *Books and Workbooks*
- *Audio/Video Series*
- *Articles*

Contact Us

If you would like to book us or one of our network partners to coach you through your DISC results, or to teach/speak at your next Singles or Leadership training event, please contact us at:

Raise Performance Group

PO BOX 709, Fresno, Texas 77545

Email: info@raiseperformancegroup.com

Website: www.raiseperformancegroup.com

