

# WHEN DATING TURNS DANGEROUS



**CFE 3320V**

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OPEN CAPTIONED  
SUNBURST COMMUNICATIONS  
1995  
Grade Levels: 9-13+  
33 minutes  
3 Instructional Graphics Enclosed

## **DESCRIPTION**

Zach and Lucy are involved in a romantic relationship. When a progressively abusive pattern occurs, Lucy is confused about the responsibility she bears for Zach's actions. Though Lucy's friends try to counsel her about breaking up with him, her confusion only mounts. She still has strong feelings for him. After Zach's violence puts Lucy in the hospital, she has to examine some of the issues.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

- To identify controlling and abusive behaviors.
- To recognize the typical cyclic nature of dating violence.
- To acknowledge that inventing myths and depending on mistaken notions are signs of an unhealthy relationship.

## **BEFORE SHOWING**

1. Preview the video to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Research present statistics concerning dating violence.
3. Give individual opinions on the MYTHS ABOUT ABUSE worksheet. Tally the results, and retain for discussion after viewing the video. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
4. Discuss the following issues:
  - a. What does it mean to be a "real man?"
  - b. What does it mean to be a "real woman?"
  - c. What is abuse?
  - d. What types of abuse are common?
  - e. How does a person recognize abuse?

## DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause at the first discussion question, “Do you agree with Zach that he has the right to make Lucy stay home?”
  - a. What gives Zach the right to decide things for Lucy?
  - b. Did Zach assault Lucy when he pushed her?
  - c. Why might Lucy feel that Zach was justified in being mad at her?
3. Pause at the second discussion question, “Do you think Lucy should give Zach another chance?”
  - a. Are there people who can’t control themselves?
  - b. Why do people hit each other when they are in love?
  - c. Should people who are violent be given another chance?
4. Pause at the third discussion question, “Why do you think Lucy doesn’t want people to know what’s going on?”
  - a. Who has the right to tell Lucy what to wear or to whom to talk?
  - b. What do criticisms do to a person’s self-image?
5. Pause at the fourth discussion question, “Do you agree with Lucy that it is the girl’s job to make the relationship work?”
  - a. What responsibilities do both people share in making a relationship work?
  - b. What kind of personality does Zach have?
  - c. How can Lucy prevent Zach from getting mad?
6. Pause at the fifth discussion question, “Do you think Zach is more masculine than Reggie?” “Do ‘real men’ have to act like Zach?”
  - a. Who should be in control of a relationship?

- b. What is good and what is bad about Nadine and Reggie's relationship?
- 7. Pause at the sixth discussion question, "Do you agree that what happened between Zach and Lucy is only their business?"
  - a. Why do Zach's friends joke about what happened to Lucy?
  - b. What does Zach give Tom as the reason he was angry with Lucy?
- 8. Pause and discuss the seventh discussion question, "Why do you think Zach doesn't lose control and hit other guys when he's angry?"
- 9. Pause and discuss the last discussion question, "Do Zach and Lucy love each other?" "What do you think will happen to them?"

## **AFTER SHOWING**

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss the statistics seen at the beginning of the video. Compare these with present-day statistics.
2. Discuss the effects of the abuse seen in the video.
  - a. When Zach throws Lucy against the car, then says he didn't mean it, what does he really mean?
  - b. What is the effect of the verbal abuse Zach aims at Lucy?
  - c. If Lucy didn't have a choice about having sex with Zach, what kind of abuse is that?
  - d. How violent would Zach be if he and Lucy were not having sex?
3. List the controlling techniques Zach uses on Lucy. Discuss the effects these techniques have on both Zach and Lucy.
4. Name the typical elements of the honeymoon/abuse cycle. Recount how many times Zach abused Lucy in the video.

### Applications and Activities

1. Working as a group, describe Zach, Lucy, Nadine, Reggie, Mark, and Tony. Answer the following questions:
  - a. What are each character's strengths?
  - b. What are each character's weaknesses?
  - c. How did each character contribute to the conflict in the video?
  - d. How did each character change during the video?
  - e. What will happen with each character after the video ends?
2. Using the MYTHS ABOUT ABUSE worksheet completed before viewing the video, discuss individual opinions. Revise if necessary.
3. Research and report on the following subjects:
  - a. Why abused women stay in abusive relationships
  - b. Psychological characteristics of an abuser
  - c. Unemployment and domestic violence
  - d. The effect of domestic violence upon children in the home
  - e. Local agencies which provide help for abused women and men
  - f. Agencies which specialize in helping deaf women deal with an abusive relationship
4. Invite a police officer or a member of the court to speak on the kinds of domestic violence in the community. Discuss ways the violence can be reduced.
5. Debate one of the following subjects:
  - a. A society that tolerates male abuse of women does so because the society believes in the superiority and privilege of men.
  - b. If abusers were sent to jail the first time they abused someone, there would be less abuse.
6. Using the ABUSE RATING SHEET, assign a different number to each situation. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

- a. Use the number 1 to signify the most abusive, and 10 as the least abusive situation.
  - b. Discuss individual ratings and the effects abuse has on both males and females.
7. Role-play some relationships in which people are equal and some in which they are unequal. Discuss the effects each relationship has on the people involved.
- a. Dating plans are always made by the same person in the relationship.
  - b. One member of the relationship has a job conflicting with normal dating nights.
  - c. Both members of the relationship sometimes have independent plans.
  - d. One member of the relationship tells the other one how to dress, what to eat, and what friends are proper.
  - e. Both members of the relationship agree whether or not to have sex.
  - f. One member of the relationship becomes violent when mad.
8. Complete the AGREE/DISAGREE WORKSHEET. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
- a. Tally individuals' opinions concerning each statement.
  - b. Discuss how this affects their views of males and females in a relationship.
9. Compose an individual definition for *abuse*. Compare this to the definition given in the counseling scene in the video.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS**

Three INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS are included with this lesson guide. They may be enlarged and used to create transparencies or copies.

- MYTHS ABOUT ABUSE
- ABUSE RATING SHEET
- AGREE/DISAGREE WORKSHEET

## **SUMMARY**

Zach is in a romantic relationship with Lucy. Since Zach is working at night, he wants Lucy to stay at home instead of going to a friend's party without him. Lucy agrees, but later changes her mind after speaking to Nadine, her best friend.

At the party, Lucy meets an old friend, Tom, just as Zach storms into the party. He drags Lucy out, loses control, and throws her against the car. Her friends try to calm Zach as Lucy lies against the car crying. Zach insists that this is private business. When a police officer arrives, Lucy tells him she's okay.

A conversation between Lucy and Nadine confirms that Lucy feels she shouldn't have lied to Zach. Now she is thinking of giving Zach another chance. Nadine wonders if Zach is one of those men who can't control himself.

Soon Lucy appears at school with a broken arm. Her friend Tony stops by to see if the rumor about Zach beating her is true. Lucy denies it and Tony leaves, convinced that Lucy should stop seeing Zach. Lucy tells Nadine that she and Zach were having an argument which resulted in Lucy being pushed down some stairs. Once again, Lucy feels it was her fault. Zach brings flowers to Lucy saying that if she breaks up with him, he will kill himself. Lucy is confused, but feels that things are not working out. She breaks it off with Zach.

Lucy tries to date Tom. However, Lucy is afraid of what Zach will do if he finds out about Tom.

Because of her fear of Zach, she won't invite Tom to the school dance. Tom, convinced that Lucy is still in love with Zach, stops seeing her. Once again, Zach shows up, gives her a reasonable guarantee of his commitment, and she agrees to go out with him again. Zach and Lucy go to the school dance.

Nadine and Lucy discuss the situation again. This time Lucy knows it will work, because it's her job to make sure that Zach doesn't get mad. Nadine is unconvinced, but wishes them luck.

That summer Zach goes away with his family. Lucy is relieved as she describes Zach's controlling ways to Nadine. Nadine encourages her to break up again. Just then Lucy sees Tom and goes to talk to him.

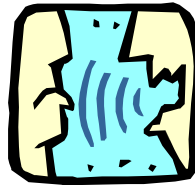
When her senior year begins, Lucy's relationship with Tom has not developed into anything serious. This is due, in part, to her fears of Zach. Zach learns about Tom and drags Lucy out of school and away in his car. Lucy ends up in the hospital, badly beaten. Her parents are shocked to find that Zach did this to their daughter.

Lucy participates in group counseling sessions. She hears others describe their relationships with abusive men. She learns about the honeymoon/ abuse cycle of abuse. She listens, but still has the opinion that Zach is not that bad and he can change.

At last, Zach finds a way to get Lucy alone again. He tells her again that this is their business and others have no right to pass judgment on him. She admits her confusion. He presents Lucy with a ring and a plea to put it on if she cares about him.



# ABUSE RATING SHEET



**DIRECTIONS:** Rate each of the following situations for abusiveness on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 as most abusive and 10 as least abusive.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sally's boyfriend tells her she is fat and ugly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jan's boyfriend tells her she's not to hang out with her friends because he wants her to wait for his phone calls.

\_\_\_\_\_ Diane's boyfriend threatens to beat her up if she goes to a party. He yells and tries to scare her into doing what he wants.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lydia's boyfriend tells her she isn't smart enough to go to college.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jill's boyfriend jokes about how stupid he thinks she is because she is deaf.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deanna's boyfriend pressures her to quit her job because some of the guys at work are asking her out.

\_\_\_\_\_ Marcie's boyfriend tells her she will never get another boyfriend again because she's a loser.

\_\_\_\_\_ Christa's boyfriend constantly criticizes the clothes she wears.

\_\_\_\_\_ Francine's boyfriend calls her a slut when he's angry.

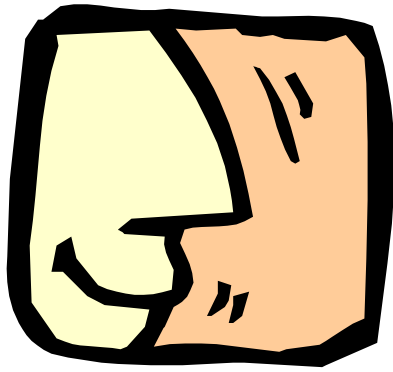
# MYTHS ABOUT ABUSE



**DIRECTIONS:** In each group of two sentences, put an M if the sentence is a myth or a T if the sentence is true.

- Love hurts.
- Love nourishes and protects.
  
- Jealousy is a sign of love.
- Jealousy is a sign of insecurity and lack of trust.
  
- All people can control themselves.
- Men hit because women make them angry and they can't control themselves.
  
- Abusers are responsible for their violence.
- Victims often provoke violence.
  
- Violence against teenage girls by their boyfriends is unusual.
- One out of eight teenage girls is abused by her boyfriend.
  
- Batterers are not mentally ill. They batter to get their way.
- Batterers are crazy, sick people.
  
- An abuser will change.
- An abuser will not change unless the abuser acknowledges the problem and seeks help.
  
- Forcing someone to have sex is abnormal behavior and is a crime.
- It's normal for a boy to try to force a girl to have sex.
  
- Someone has to be in control of the relationship.
- Relationships that are based on mutual respect, sharing, and caring are healthy and satisfying.

# AGREE/DISAGREE WORKSHEET



**DIRECTIONS:** Place an "A" for *agree* or a "D" for *disagree* in front of each statement.

1. \_\_\_\_ Men are smarter than women in some areas.
2. \_\_\_\_ Someone in any relationship has to be in control.
3. \_\_\_\_ Men are not as caring or giving as women.
4. \_\_\_\_ Women are not naturally aggressive.
5. \_\_\_\_ Equal rights for women goes against common sense.
6. \_\_\_\_ Men don't feel as deeply about things as women do.
7. \_\_\_\_ Men need to control women more than women need to control men.
8. \_\_\_\_ Men are more independent than women.
9. \_\_\_\_ It's worse for a woman to cheat on a man.
10. \_\_\_\_ The man should make most of the important decisions in a family.
11. \_\_\_\_ Raising the children is really the woman's role.
12. \_\_\_\_ In the family, girls should be treated differently than boys.
13. \_\_\_\_ Housework is for women and girls.
14. \_\_\_\_ Men need to express their anger more than women do.