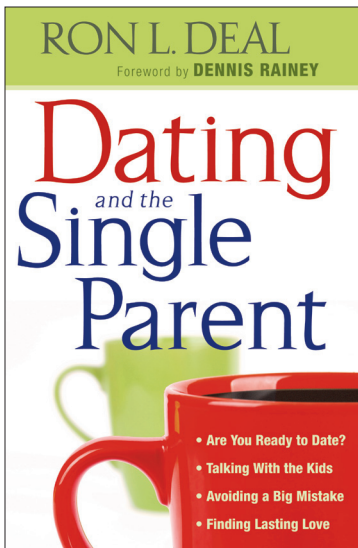




SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Dating and the Single Parent

by Ron L. Deal



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Media Contacts

PRINT/ BROADCAST: **Brett Benson**

952-829-2529

bbenson@bakerpublishinggroup.com

INTERNET: **Erin Hollister**

952-829-2526

ehollister@bakerpublishinggroup.com

CANADIAN MEDIA: **Ellen Graf-Martin**

519-342-3703

ellen@grafmartin.com

Please send tear sheets to:

Brett Benson

11400 Hampshire Ave. S.

Bloomington, MN 55438

1. Your book *Dating and the Single Parent* begins with a promise that really sounds like a warning. Tell us about that.
2. There are a lot of books on dating. Why do we need one for single parents and those dating single parents?
3. Let's back up for a second and examine the dating scene for all singles, and then we'll take a closer look at what's unique for single parents. Share with us some thoughts about dating in America.
4. Attitudes about dating and marriage have changed dramatically in the last decade. What other observations have you made?
5. What are singles looking for? Aren't they looking for a soul mate?
6. In your book you jokingly refer to what you call "marital amnesia." Can you explain what you mean by that?
7. You make an important distinction in the book: "Coupleness" does not equal "familyness." Can you expand on that?
8. How is dating for single parents different than for singles without children?
9. Should single parents wait to marry until their children approve of the relationship?
10. What are some common unrealistic assumptions single parents make about how dating or marriage will impact their kids?
11. What are some big mistakes single parents make?
12. What are some realities you want single parents to know about remarriage?
13. What should be the children's point of view about their parent dating?
14. What are some best practices for single parent dating?
15. Does it matter how long a couple dates before marriage?
16. What are some unfamiliar flashing yellow caution lights?
17. What are some red flags not to ignore?
18. What are your thoughts about online dating?
19. In *Dating and the Single Parent*, you say, "If there is one clear vulnerability in life, it is anything or any feeling that promises to lift you out of the pit of pain." Please explain.
20. What are some guidelines for couples to know when the time is right to get engaged?
21. How can couples strengthen confidence in their relationship?
22. Once engaged, how can a couple prepare for stepfamily living?