

YW Activity: Ring Shopping @ the Mall

Introduction: The ring is of course a circle and this was the symbol of eternity for the Egyptians as well as many other ancient cultures. It had no beginning and no end, like time. It is not difficult therefore, to see how the ring and the gift of a ring began to be associated with love, in the hope that this most worthy of emotions could take on the characteristics of the circle and capture eternity.

They wore it like we do today, on the third finger of the left hand, because of a belief that the vein of that finger directly traveled from the heart. This legend was later taken up by the Greeks, when they conquered Egypt under the generalship of Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. and from them passed onto the Romans, who called this the 'vena amoris', which is Latin for 'the vein of love'.

Why the Left Hand? As the man, facing his bride, reaches straight out with his right hand (most people are right handed) he naturally touches her left. As she does his, as now, with more and more men wearing one also, when the rings are exchanged.

Activity: Take the girls to Claire's or Icing in the mall to pick out their favorite wedding-style ring... let them try them on and ooh and ahh for a while. Make sure they show each other. Then take them out of store and have them sit on a bench as you show them an example of a ring you bought there (and how it's tarnished in no time!).

Then, take the girls to Kay's or other jewelry store to pick their favorite ring. (the guys were really nice to us at Kays as I explained a bit of what we were doing...and this was Massachusetts where not everyone is LDS!). I didn't let the girls try them on (to prove a later point). I even had the girls pick out their future husband's wedding band. Then take them out to another bench and show them the ring I got there over 6 years ago (or however many years you've been married). *Look at the difference!*

Buying a ring at Claire's is an example of settling for less than our standards... Their diamonds are not real diamonds...just a look-alike. The metal is not gold or any type of precious metal. Although at first sight they look sparkly and just as good as the real thing, over time they tarnish and look gross. It's easy to just get rid of them because the price paid for them wasn't too high.

At Kay's Jewelers, we see rings that are sparkly and beautiful (like the rings at Claire's) but instead, they are locked behind glass cases, instead of on a turning rack for anyone to try on. They are so valuable that the owners want them protected and safe. Not just anyone gets to try them on....only those who are serious about buying and keeping that ring forever!

It shows that when you put value in something, it lasts! I know for sure that this ring will last for the rest of my life, but what's even more exciting is that the marriage represented by that ring will last FOREVER!!

In real life, it costs more to purchase a real wedding ring, but because it has more value, it lasts!

In real life, it might take longer and more effort to find a husband who is perfect for you...but it so worth it! And once you have him, you're going to want to take care of that relationship so you can keep him forever.

Now, when I say "perfect for you" I don't mean perfect. No one is perfect. But if you hold true to the values you know are true and be sure that he does so as well, you can be perfect for each other!

Treat: Take the girl's "ring shopping" at CVS for ring pops (or peach rings, life saver rings, gummy rings, etc).

Handout: I posted this on Facebook for our girls after the activity. "Shop for a husband as you would a wedding ring...only the ones who hold their values are worth keeping for eternity!"