



FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

1 Corinthians

Live for Jesus No Matter Your Season in Life

Ice Breaker

Should a middle school or high school student date? Why or why not?

Day 1— Get It

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25–40.

1. The Apostle Paul states that a person should “remain as he is” because of what?
2. Is this question of whether to get married or not a matter of right or wrong?
3. In verse 28, Paul says that married folks will have _____.
4. In verse 32, Paul says he wants the Corinthians to be free from _____.
5. What can the married person be anxious about?
6. How long is a wife or husband bound to their spouse?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Should I Stay Single or Get Married?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25–28.

God created Adam before He created Eve. In Genesis 2:18: “*The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*” He saw our need for companionship so He gave the gift of woman to man. We know that God put Adam in a deep sleep and took a rib out of Adam and created Eve.¹ That was the first marriage. God created marriage and God said that everything He created was good. Earlier in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul talks about the blessing of singleness and some people are called to be single and that also is a good thing. There is some sort of crisis that the Corinthians are dealing with, possibly persecution for identifying as a Christian and following Jesus. Paul is saying that they shouldn't change their marital status in life based on this crisis. Paul says if we are pledged to be married then don't try to be released from that pledge, but get married. And if you are free from that commitment, don't seek out a person to marry. Paul does give a warning that those who marry will face many troubles in this life unique to marriage that they wouldn't experience if they were single. You can look at your own families and the challenges you have seen your parents work or struggle through. Paul says that it's both a good thing to be married and a good thing to be single. **As a middle school or high school student, how do you make sense of these verses?** None of you are married, so do you take Paul's counsel in verse 28, “*Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife.*” If that is the case, none of you currently in middle school or high school should ever get married. That is not what Paul is saying. Paul is saying both singleness and getting married are good things. Neither one is a sin!

7. What are the pros and cons of getting married versus staying single?

8. What are some of the challenges you have seen your parents work through because they are married?

9. How does someone know whether God has called them to remain single or to get married?

¹ Genesis 2:18–25

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Time is Short, Live for Eternity!

Read 1 Corinthians 7:29–31.

Many movie producers are fascinated with “end of the world” scenarios. They imagine how the world may end. Will aliens come and take over the world? Will we destroy ourselves with nuclear weapons? Will a giant meteor crash into the earth and destroy us? We can be confident that none of those scenarios to end the world I just mentioned are going to happen according to what God says in His Word. We know from the Bible that God has a day coming when He will judge the earth. Jesus will return, reigning on His throne, and He will destroy the present heaven and earth by fire and create a new heaven and earth.² If we have surrendered our lives to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we don't have to fear this time because ultimately our future is secure with Jesus. Today's verses say that our time is short and the world in its present form is passing away. Because of that, we need to live lives sold out to Jesus with urgency and tell everyone the Lord has placed in the path of our lives about Jesus. As we live in this world, we will experience happiness and sadness (mourning) and possess things, but Paul is telling us to keep everything in perspective. Those times of happiness, sadness and possessing things are temporary, so they should not consume our thoughts. Instead, we should focus on eternity seeking to serve the Lord.³

10. What is your favorite “end of the world” movie? Why do you like that movie?

11. What is something you wish you had more time for?

12. Read 2 Peter 3:1–13. How does God say that everything is going to end? How then should we live?

13. Read Revelation 21:1–5. What can we look forward to in the future?

14. Since “the time is short,” how do we live for eternity?

² 2 Peter 3:1–13, Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:1–4

³ <https://www.preceptaustin.org/1-corinthians-7-commentary#7:29>

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Priorities

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32–35.

Your parents have most likely taught you the importance of setting priorities. They will tell you to finish your homework and do your chores before playing on your phone, watching Netflix or YouTube shorts. In today's passage, Paul shares how priorities look different for a single person versus a married person. For both married and single people, the Lord should be our passionate pursuit and come first in everything, but the time we have to devote to serving the Lord is divided for the married person. We should all be serving the Lord with our gifts and talents. A single person has more time to be fully devoted to serving the Lord whereas a married person is serving the Lord but also needs to take time to devote to his wife and kids. I remember when Beth and I first came to Village Bible Church as the student ministry pastor without any kids yet and Beth served alongside me as a student ministry leader. Once we started having kids, Beth's attention was needed to stay home to raise our kids and she was not able to help out at youth group. Now that our kids are older, she has been able to come alongside me again and serve as a middle school girls' small group leader.

15. What principles are good to follow when it comes to setting priorities in our lives?

16. It's Wednesday night and you have a list of things you need to do after school. Prioritize them by putting a number next to each item in order of importance. Share with your small group your reasons for prioritizing the way you did.

Hang out with friends.

Go to your Wednesday night student small group

Practice for your sport

You have a job and you are scheduled to work

Time alone with the Lord

Chores at home

Keeping your streaks alive in Snapchat

Homework

Sleep

Spend time with your little brother or sister

17. How are you serving the Lord? Are you involved in any regular ongoing serving ministries at church or your campus ministry at school?

Day 5 — Today's Theme: Whom Should I Marry?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:36–40.

The most important decision you make in life is surrendering your life to Jesus as your Savior and Lord. The second most important decision is if God is calling you to get married, deciding whom you should marry. Paul says if a man is worried that he might give in to his passion with a young woman he is in a relationship with, he should marry her. But he also says that a person who has decided not to marry is also making a God-honoring decision. A question I have been asked countless times by students is how to know whom I should marry? Many girls dream about their wedding day. They think about what their dress will look like, the setting where their wedding will take place, the food they will eat, who will be at their wedding, etc. It's great to put time into planning the wedding day, but it's more important to make sure that you marry the right person and spend time investing in your marriage. God's intent is that your marriage is for a lifetime. And if you marry, Paul says it's "till death do us part."

18. If you do desire to get married, what are important things to look for in a future spouse?

19. What kind of person do you need to be to attract that kind of future spouse?

20. When is the right age to date? Why do you say that? What is the purpose of dating? How do I know if I am ready to date?