

Let's Talk About Singleness

Week 2

Leader tip: *You don't have to ask every question. Pick the ones that best fit your group and let the conversation breathe. Many in your group are married, so this week is a chance for the whole group to grow in Paul's teaching and to consider how we can be the church as a family.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Your relationship status is not your identity, but it is an assignment from God. If relationship status isn't the main storyline of Scripture, it doesn't have to be the main storyline of your life either. In the sermon, we learned that singleness is an assignment from God to steward, not a season to endure. Whether single or married, God calls each of us to undistracted devotion to Jesus in the season we're in, and to be mindful of others in theirs. The church is meant to be a family.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Each person has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. … Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. 1 Corinthians 7:7, 17 ESV

WARM UP

- Who is someone outside your family who feels like family to you, and how did that happen?
- Would you rather have a fully planned life or a totally spontaneous one? Why?

THINK IT THROUGH

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:17. Paul tells us to live the life the Lord has assigned to us. What does it look like to see your current season, whatever it is, as an assignment from God rather than something to get through?

- In the sermon, we heard that if relationship status isn't the main storyline of Scripture, it doesn't have to be the main storyline of your life. Why do you think we're so tempted to make relationship status the measure of a full life?
- Read Genesis 1:27. Our identity begins with being made in God's image, before any relationship status. How would it change the way you carry yourself day to day if that were the truest thing about you?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. Paul says singleness can free a person for undistracted devotion to the Lord. Married or single, where do you sense your own devotion to Jesus getting divided or distracted right now?
- Paul says he wished others could experience the freedom he had as a single man (1 Corinthians 7:7). When you hear singleness described as freedom rather than lack, what is your honest reaction?

OPEN UP

- Singleness is described in the sermon as a gift to embrace, not a season to wish away. If you're single, where have you found that hard to believe, and where have you seen the gift? If you're married, how can you honor that gift in the single people around you rather than treating marriage as the goal everyone should reach?
- Paul writes about singleness as a single man who gave his life fully to the mission of Jesus. Does knowing that change how his words land for you? Why or why not?
- Read 1 Peter 4:8-10. Knowing the assignment means being mindful of others in their season. Who is one single person in your life or in our church that you could love, include, or serve as family? What would that practically look like?
- Paul saw the church as a family, with brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers in Christ. Have you experienced the church being that kind of family to you? Where do we have room to grow so that no one in our church feels alone?
- Think of a season you once wanted to rush through. Looking back, how did God use it, and what might that teach you about the season you're in now?
- Paul was genuinely content whether he had much or little, single or in any circumstance (Philippians 4:11-12). What do you think he knew about Jesus that made that kind of contentment possible? Where do you want to grow in it?

TAKE A STEP

- This week, prayerfully ask the three questions from the sermon: Lord, how can I serve You in this season? Where am I forfeiting joy and contentment in my current assignment? Help me grow in devotion to You right here.
- Take one concrete step to be family to someone who is single. Invite them into your home, your table, or your plans, not as a project, but as a brother or sister.
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that our identity is found in You and not in our relationship status. Thank You for the season and the assignment You've given each of us. Help us to steward it well, to give You our

undistracted devotion, and to find our contentment in You. Make us a family to one another, so that no one among us walks alone. Show us who we can love and include this week. In Jesus' name, amen.