

it's complicated!

Singleness

Week 4 Leader Guide

Leader Tips: Make sure to have a belt or rope for the Warm-Up activity and a 3x5 notecard for Digging Deeper.

the win

Group members will reflect and discuss God's truth that being single is an opportunity, not a burden. Group members will discuss ways to encourage singles to maximize their impact for the kingdom of God.

1-2
minutes

sermon recap: what did the text mean? what does it mean?

In 1 Corinthians 7, we learned that being single is an opportunity rather than a burden!

- How did the message change your view of singleness?
- How is God calling you to respond to what you learned in the message?

3-5
minutes

warm up

Leader tip: This race is designed to show the superior speed of the single person in accomplishing a mission.

Do This:

Ask for three volunteers to do this activity (one couple if possible and one individual). Have the couple tie their legs together with a rope or belt (three-legged race style). Have both the couple and individual line up together somewhere near the group huddle. When you say go, both will race to the kitchen to get a cup of water and then come sit back down in their seats.

Ask This:

- How does this exercise illustrate the advantage that singles have in accomplishing their given mission?
- How do you currently view your own singleness? Or if married, how did you treat singleness before you were married?

the text: what does it mean for me?

Say this:

- Americans are getting married later and later. The average age of first marriage in the United States is 27 for women and 29 for men, up from 23 for women and 26 for men in 1990 and 20 and 22 (!) in 1960.

Ask this:

- Why is this trend increasing? How does our culture encourage singles to use the years that they are single?
- If you were to come up with an advertising slogan to stay single according to a secular (non-Christian) worldview, what would it be?

The Text:

Have someone read **1 Corinthians 7:17**, then **27-31**.

- In this passage, Paul is also encouraging those who are single to remain that way. He does not want them to be consumed with finding a spouse.
- How does Paul view the world which leads him to think this way?
- If you were to come up with a slogan to embrace singleness according to a Christian worldview, what would it be?

Have someone read **Galatians 6:14**.

- How would you describe Paul's relationship with the cross as a follower of Jesus?
- What is his relationship with the world?
- How could this affect the way followers of Christ evaluate staying single vs. pursuing marriage?

As we learned on Sunday from 1 Corinthians 7:35, the greatest benefit to singles is "undivided devotion to the Lord." *Success is not about getting married or having a family; success is about becoming more like Jesus.* Regardless of whether God calls us to be single or married, this is our goal!

Yet, many of us still have great desire to be married. Have someone read **Proverbs 18:22**.

- Finding a wife is a "good thing" and involves "favor from the Lord." If our ultimate good is to become more like Jesus, how can marriage promote this good?

Ask This:

Singles:

- What are some practical ways that you can pursue "undivided devotion to the Lord" in this season of singleness?
- Are there things you have been clinging to in your life that keep you from this?

-
- If you could do anything in the world for God’s glory, and you knew God would give you all the resources you needed, and that you would not fail: what would you do?

Marrieds:

- Have you been guilty of encouraging your single friends to focus primarily on finding a spouse rather than pursuing Christ?
- How can you be an encouragement to your single friends to help them maintain a biblical perspective?
- If you could do anything in the world for God’s glory, and you knew God would give you all the resources you needed, and that you would not fail: what would you do?

5- 10
minutes

digging deeper

Write your “anything” answer from the last question on a 3x5 notecard and partner up with someone else in your group. Pray for each other, asking God to make your “anything” a reality. Commit to pray for each other daily over the next month.