

# THIS IS US

Week 6 Leader Guide Living Single

## THE WIN

The group member will better understand that serving the Lord as a single follower of Christ has a few benefits that their married counterparts do not have.

1-2  
minutes

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**SAY THIS:** In the message this week, we learned that God's Word affirms those who are gifted and called to live lives as a single believer.

3-5  
minutes

## WARM UP

**SAY THIS:** Ask anyone what they think of adults who are single, and you will often hear a list of stereotypes that are based on assumptions. There seems to be a different attitude towards those who are single and those who are married. However, there are good and not so good characteristics, whether a person is single or married.

### ASK THIS:

- Are most assumptions people make about living single are positive or negative? Why?
- What are some perceptions people may have about single adults?
- What is your response to the following statements about singles?
  - Single people are miserable. If they want to be happy, they need to get married.
  - If you are single, there is nothing more you care about than getting married.
  - If you are single, your life is superficial and lacking.
  - Single people are isolated, lonely and alone.
  - People that choose to remain single all their lives are selfish.

30-35  
minutes

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

**SAY THIS:** The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 7:8: "To the unmarried and widows, I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am."

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**ASK THIS:**

- Why do you think Paul believes it is good to be single?
- How do you think Paul's life would have been different had he been married with kids?

**SAY THIS:** God sometimes calls people to live their lives as a single person.

**DO THIS:** Have someone read 1 Corinthians 7:29-31:

*29. What I am saying, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30. those who weep, as if they did not; those who are joyful, as if they were not; those who make a purchase, as if they had nothing; 31. and those who use the things of this world, as if not dependent on them. For this world in its present form is passing away.*

**ASK THIS:**

- Whether married or single, what does 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 tell the follower of Christ?
- What are some practical ways we can live this out in our daily lives?

**DO THIS:** Have someone read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35:

*32. I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. 33. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. 34. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. 35. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.*

**ASK THIS:**

- What does it mean to be called to a life of singleness?
- Why might God call some believers to never marry?
- What are some benefits for living a life as a Christian single?
- Christ followers face a variety of spiritual battles every day. What are some of these battles that are unique to those who are called to be unmarried?
- What do you believe to be the predominant attitude, in the Church, toward those who do not marry?

3-5  
minutes

## DIGGING DEEPER

**READ THIS:** "...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to live on almost nothing or with plenty. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

**PRAY:** Take time to pray that each person will seek to live a content life in Christ, no matter whether they are single or married.

**PRACTICE:** For further study, check out these blogs:

- **Christian Advice for Singles.**

<http://applygodsword.com/christian-advice-for-singles/>

- **How Can my Church Minister to Singles?**

<https://www.harvestusa.org/how-can-my-church-minister-to-singles/#.XFr7tVVKg1k>

## CLOSING THOUGHT

*“Singleness is one of those things (for me anyway) that requires acceptance of the grace God gives you for today and not worry about whether you’ll have it for tomorrow, next year or the next decade. Seasons of life change. I believe that one can live in obedience, acceptance and contentment for the present season, trusting God to prepare them for other seasons as they may come.”*

Professor Theophilus