

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To discuss the benefits of singleness and how we can view it as a gift from God.

ICE BREAKER



What's one of your fondest memories from a season of singleness?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

1 Corinthians 7:25-38

²⁵ Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

(Turn to 1 Corinthians 7 in an ESV Bible to finish reading verses 32-38)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Singleness is a gracious gift of God.

Key Question: Why would God gift singleness?

1. Singleness avoids certain worldly troubles. (vv. 25-31)
2. Singleness enables undivided devotion. (vv. 32-35)
3. Singleness experiences God's empowering grace. (vv. 36-38)

DISCUSSION



- This week's passage addresses the gift of singleness. What are your thoughts about singleness as a gift? How have you seen this to be true and/or challenging?
- In verses 25-31 Paul encourages those that are married and those that are single to remain as they are. He mentions in verse 28 that those that are single avoid some of the troubles of marriage. What do you think of this quote by Sam Alberry in relation to this verse: "The temptation for many who are single is to compare the downs of singleness with the ups of marriage. And the temptation for some married people is to compare the downs of marriage with the ups of singleness, which is equally dangerous. The grass will often seem greener on the other side. Whichever gift we have – marriage or singleness – the other can easily seem far more attractive."
- Singleness allows individuals to live lives of undivided or undistracted devotion to Christ (vv. 32-35). How have you found this to be true? What are other ways single people can serve the Lord differently than married people?
- Although Paul seems to favor singleness in this passage, he also adds that it's okay (not a sin) to be married (v.38). How can you view singleness as a gift while still desiring marriage? How does God's grace empower us in every season of life?

LIFE APPLICATION



No matter what stage of life you find yourself in, it's a gift. As a group, discuss ways in which you can help one another recognize your season of life as a gift where you can better serve the Lord. Come up with a few practical ideas of ways you can remind one another of this gift and serve one another out of your giftedness.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


