

Home Group Study Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Talk around the room about your experience with the married-single divide that so often defines our culture...What has been your experience in friendships and in life, with your own singleness and the lives of single friends.
2. If you are currently single – share briefly with the group how you would like the world to see you and how you'd like to be defined?
3. Married people, think back to your single days, or think of single friends you currently have....What was your experience as a single in a "married" world?
4. Share one of the dumbest things that were said to you when you were/are single....and then share the opposite...of an experience where you felt affirmed, included, respected, regardless of your marital status.
5. What are the unique challenges that a single person faces....what are the unique opportunities they have?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

6. Read I Corinthians 7:1-10; 17-24; & 29-35. What stands out at first reading? How does Paul portray the differences between married and unmarried?
7. I Corinthians 7:7-9 talk about the gift of celibacy, or the gift of purity and self-control. We are all called to the covenant of sexual purity – whether married or single, but the challenges for the single may be amplified. Why was this teaching so revolutionary in its day – and why is it so counter-cultural today?
8. Read I Corinthians 7:29-35 and talk about the "down-side" to being married! What unique advantages does a single person have over those who are married? Why do you think the church has had trouble celebrating the single life?
9. Read Matthew 19:1-12 (focus vv 10-12). What do you think Jesus was referring to when he talked of those who renounced marriage for the kingdom?
10. Read I Timothy 5:1-2 and talk about the etiquette Paul lays down for this single pastor as he relates to the women of the church. What principles do you see?
11. Read I Timothy 5:11-16 and talk about the role of the church in caring for "widows." How would this teaching apply to single moms today – whether by death or divorce?
12. Read I Timothy 5:3-10 and talk about the special attention the church was asked to give to the widows among them. How do you feel we are doing today at caring for those who are "single-again?"
13. Finally, read Hebrews 2:18 that talks of a single person who overcame temptation. What are the implications of this passage for those who are single today, and struggling with temptation?

Taking It Home (Application)

14. Have you been ignorant of the unique needs and challenges that face a single person? Have you forgotten to place yourself in their shoes? Do you have some apologies to make to anyone for "unthinking" comments you have made?
15. Think of a single adult you know who is doing their best to follow Christ and build a life, honoring to God. Drop them a note or call of encouragement.
16. Why not plan your next dinner or social event with some single friends in mind. Rather than exclude them from your married world – why not intentionally make sure there are some singles on your invitation list.
17. Finally, if you are a single, spend some time with God in prayer, asking Him to help you see and celebrate the unique opportunities you have. Have you found a place of service and ministry where you are using your gifts and abilities for God's glory? You have so much to offer....are you holding back?