

“Is Singleness Second Best?”

*Remember: The goal of small group is
100% participation. Everyone talks.



OPEN IT

- What are some things people commonly assume about someone who is single that may not actually be true?
- When you hear the phrase “a full life,” what comes to mind? What things do people commonly believe they need in order to have one?

READ IT:

- 1 Corinthians 7:7–8
- 1 Corinthians 7:32–35
- John 15:13–15

EXPLORE IT:

- **1 Corinthians 7:7–8.** Paul describes both marriage and singleness as gifts from God. What does this passage challenge us to believe about the value of singleness? How might this change the way we view our own relationship status—or the relationship status of others?
- **1 Corinthians 7:7-8.** Paul says, “*each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*” What does the language of gift communicate? How can something be a gift even when it is not something we would have chosen for ourselves?
- **1 Corinthians 7:32–35.** What opportunities does Paul identify for an unmarried person to devote themselves to the Lord? What does he mean by “*undivided devotion*”?

- **1 Corinthians 7:32–35.** Paul describes married and unmarried people as having different concerns and responsibilities. How does this passage help us see that singleness is not simply an incomplete version of marriage?
- **1 Corinthians 7:35.** Paul says he wants believers to **“live in a right way”** with **“undivided devotion to the Lord.”** What would undivided devotion actually look like in everyday life? What kinds of things compete for our devotion?
- **John 15:13–15.** Jesus says, **“I have called you friends.”** What do these verses tell us about the kind of relationship Jesus wants to have with His followers? How does friendship with Jesus provide a foundation for a full life?
- **John 15:13–15.** Jesus connects friendship with Him to knowing Him, hearing what He has learned from the Father, and obeying His commands. How is this different from treating Jesus as someone we turn to only when we need something?
- The message says, **“Singleness is not punishment, passivity, or a problem to solve.”** Which of those three ideas do you think our culture—and sometimes the church—struggles with most? Why? What would it look like for the church to genuinely communicate that single people have a meaningful life to live now?
- The message says, **“Stop dating Jesus”** and **“Break up with your idols.”** What do you think those statements mean? What are some things we can unintentionally expect to give us what only Jesus can provide?
- After hearing Madison’s perspective in the interview, what is one assumption about singleness—or about single people—that you think God may be inviting you to rethink? What would changing that assumption look like in the way you live or relate to others?

DO IT:

- **Name the Idol.** Identify something you are tempted to believe will complete you—romance, marriage, success, approval, comfort, independence, a particular person, or something else. Spend time this week surrendering that desire to Jesus.
- **Deepen Your Friendship with Jesus.** Set aside intentional time this week simply to be with Jesus—not primarily to ask Him for something, but to know Him. Read John 15:13–15, pray, listen, and ask, “What would it look like for Jesus to be at the center of my relationships?”
- **Stop Waiting to Live.** Identify one thing you have been postponing until some future circumstance changes. Take one concrete step toward doing it now. Your life with God is not on hold.
- **Build Meaningful Community.** Reach out to someone this week and intentionally deepen a friendship. Invite them to dinner, coffee, an activity, or simply spend

unhurried time together. Look for ways to build the kind of community in which people don't have to navigate life alone.

- **Live Undivided.** Choose one area of your life where your attention, energy, or devotion has become divided. Ask God, “What would greater devotion to You look like here?” Then make one specific change this week in response.

PRAY IT:

God, thank You that our worth and the fullness of our lives are not determined by our relationship status, but by our relationship with You. Help us to surrender the people and things we are tempted to make into idols and teach us to live with undivided devotion to Jesus. Lord, help us become a church where every person—single or married—finds deep friendship, meaningful purpose, and a place to give their lives away for Your glory.