



## **Introduction**

This week, Pastor J.D. preached on singleness from 1 Corinthians 7. In the sermon we learned that singleness and marriage are both temporary gifts that God uses to fulfill his purposes. Singleness is not an inferior state to marriage, rather it is a gift that affords singles the freedom to be undivided in their devotion to God. In the sermon, Pastor J.D. also addresses how we can discern what's right for each of us and some pitfalls to avoid. Finally, we see that whether single or married, our natural relationships are secondary and temporary, while our spiritual union with Christ's body is primary and permanent.

## **Before Your Small Group Meeting**

Listen to the weekend message from Oct. 24.

Read 1 Corinthians 7.

## **Prayer**

Open with a prayer asking God to send his Spirit as you begin to discuss his preached Word.

## **Group Discussion**

**Read 1 Corinthians 7 aloud as a group.**

1. What are some of the super-spiritual and ridiculous things people say to singles? How are these unhelpful or potentially harmful? If you are single, what are the most awkward situations you've encountered in church?

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Jesus often elevated relationships in the body of Christ above family relationships. Pastor J.D. referred to Mark 12:25, where Jesus implies this. Let's consider another similar passage. Read Matthew 12:46–50 with your group:

While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' <sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

2. How does Jesus' teaching reframe how we often think about singleness and marriage? What are ways we can cultivate a culture where we see our spiritual relationships as more permanent than our natural relationships?

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Pastor J.D. emphasized that both marriage and singleness are temporary gifts God uses to fulfill his purposes.

3. How has God used singleness and marriage in your life? Where have you not recognized singleness or marriage for the gift that it is? What are the unique opportunities, challenges, and pitfalls for you, in both singleness and marriage?

4. Considering the unique challenges and opportunities singles and married couples face, how can we, in our small group, help and encourage each other?

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## Prayer

As you pray together this week, remember to share any particular requests you have about your station in life, whether singleness or marriage. Below are some additional truths that may aid you in praying through this week's sermon text:

- "... But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another." (1 Corinthians 7:7)
  - Thank God for the gift that he has given you, whether singleness or marriage.
  
- "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. ..." (1 Corinthians 7:17)
  - Ask God to keep you content and faithful to the life he has assigned to you.
  
- "... For the present form of this world is passing away." (1 Corinthians 7:31)
  - Pray that God would give you a strong sense of the impermanence of the present world, and a longing for what is to come.