

"But if they cannot exercise self-control they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion." **Corinthians 7:9** 

Week 1: Singleness (Father's Day)

\*Without Context.

## 1 Corinthians 7:9 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 29-31, & 33-34 Mark 3:31-35 Luke 11:2 Mark 10:29-30 Matthew 6:33 Proverbs 24:27

## **RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

## Week 1 - Singleness (Father's Day)

Father's Day can be hard for those who aren't fathers or those who are single. This Father's Day we are talking about singleness and how it can be a blessing and not a curse. Yes, marriage and fatherhood is beautiful, but singleness can be as well. There are 2 myths when it comes to marriage and singleness:

**Myth One: Marriage will complete me.** There is an assumption that says "marriage and a nuclear family is the ultimate state for mankind."

Marriage and singleness are both temporary gifts that God gives for the fulfillment of His purposes on earth. The nuclear family is not the center of God's kingdom—Jesus is.

**Myth Two: Find the "right person."** Our primary quest is not to "find the right person."

JD Greear wrote, "We're not lonely people who need soulmates; we're sinners who need a Savior!" God's main purpose in life was preparing us for Himself and His kingdom; marriage is <u>A</u> way He can do that...but not the only way. Singleness is not preparation for marriage; it is about God making us holy, without blemish, to be united to Christ.

- · How have you seen our culture's conflicting messages about marriage and singleness affect people in your circles? What pressures do you feel personally?
- · In what ways might the church inadvertently make single people feel like "second-class citizens"? How can we better honor both marriage and singleness as gifts?
- "Marriage doesn't solve emptiness; it exposes it." Whether you're single or married, how have you seen this principle play out in your own life or in other's lives?
- · What are some specific ways single people could leverage their life circumstance to the advantage of the Gospel? How can married people support this?
- We all marry "the wrong person" because everyone is a sinner. For those who are married: How has this reality played out in your marriage, and how has grace been necessary? For singles: How does this perspective change your approach to dating?
- · All of our relationship will be even better in eternity. How does this eternal perspective change how you view your current season of life, whether single or married?