



## LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of February 5, 2024

1. The Church talks so highly and so often of marriage and having families, that single people can begin to feel like they are second-class Christians or that they missed out on God's will. Are you even aware of the singles around you? Take a moment and list the various categories of single people who exist in your local church: Example: *college students*

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2. Who are some of well-known people in the New Testament who were single? If marriage is good, does that mean that singleness is automatically bad? If marriage was required for peak holiness and righteousness, wouldn't Jesus have married? Explain your answers.
3. In Matthew 19:11-12, how does Jesus explain that singleness is an acceptable alternative in God's eyes?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-9. What did Paul mean when he said that he wished "...all men were even as myself"? Was Paul married or single? What does Paul mean that "...each one has his own gift from God." How would you explain to a discouraged, single Christian that God gives His grace in both gifts of marriage and singleness? (see also James 1:17)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. What are some of the blessings and opportunities that come with being single? What freedoms and abilities to single Christians have that married spouses do not? What are some of the "burdens" of marriage that single people don't have to cope with?
6. If a person remains single, does this mean that they are destined for unhappiness, misery, or a life of loneliness? How does the Bible's focus on "others" rather than "self" give help? (see John 13:35; Romans 12:10; Galatians 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Phil. 2:4). Is romance or marriage the answer for genuine happiness and fulfillment— or is it found in Someone else?
7. Your good friend Maggie from church just turned 36 years old, and she is still single. She is discouraged about this and feels like a second-rate believer. She thinks being single means that she missed out on God's best for her life. What counsel would you give her? Is she being punished?