

# Life Application Notes

A great church has great attitudes towards singleness and marriage.  
West End - 15<sup>th</sup> // Central & Lordshill 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

Speaker: Si Munsie

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7

## Introduction for leaders

This is a passage of scripture that has been misconstrued, badly taught and applied and used to make some very odd choices in the course of church history, yet it contains the practical, biblical wisdom for us today that it did for the church in Corinth. We are bombarded with our sex-obsessed culture on a daily basis – what are the right ways to live in the midst of such a time? Maybe 2000 years apart doesn't bring all that much change? These notes are less rigid than you may have had before – you may need a little more prep.

**WARNING:** Think carefully about the relationship status of all the members of your group and be wise in how you tread. Don't avoid the tricky issues but approach them with sensitivity – work hard to create a safe environment free from judgement and ask the Holy Spirit to temper all conversation with grace. There may have been strong reaction from Sunday's message in people's hearts that needs an outlet, it may be wise to suggest that the group setting may not be appropriate for some conversations.

## *Opening up:*

Si and Jo Munsie are attempting 'alphabet dating' where you go on a date for each letter of the alphabet e.g. B = Bowling, Beers & Bill's restaurant or E = Escape Room. How many fun date ideas can you come up for the letters of the alphabet as a group? You could even choose to do one as your next life group social!

## *Defining singleness and exploring the benefits of singleness and marriage:*

It is important for us to understand that singleness is not necessarily a temporary state. Some may have chosen it, some may have had it forced on them whilst others may be seeking to not be single. Whatever phase of life you are in, what are the particular joys that single people enjoy? What are the benefits and joys of marriage? Both singles and marrieds can and will have different perspectives on both of these questions – allow time to explore both from both sides. The aim here is to build community, understanding each others' uniqueness.

What are the challenges of being single that individuals (may) face? How can you as a life group go some way to supporting/practically meeting those challenges?

What are the challenges of being married that individuals (may) face? How can you as a life group go some way to supporting/practically meeting those challenges?

## *Thorny issues*

Paul discusses some of the thornier issues around relationships such as divorce and re-marriage but also the God-given parameters for sex being within marriage. Si talked on Sunday about how for many of these aspects and the potential guilt/shame surrounding them, the issues are not predominantly centred around singleness or married-ness but our grasp of the gospel and the good news we have in Jesus. It may be that at this point you are able to split the group into ladies and gents and discuss some questions for singles around their sexual temptation, any issues surrounding relationships, prior relationships – then relate any difficulties back to the love that Jesus has displayed for them on the cross. For marrieds, it may be less appropriate to discuss sexual conversations depending on the split of the groups and dynamics but some ways in which the group can work together to support in areas related to community would be profitable.