

Singleness

Icebreaker: How did you practice BLESS this week?

Discussion: For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.
 - Read Romans 12:10, 13 highlight the following
 - The starting place of this conversation is to care for one another through hospitable listening and prayer!
 - Our goal is that single men and women are to be honored and empowered in the church.
 - Let us create safe space for those who are single to be vulnerable and express the joys and pains they are experiencing in life.

Prepare to break into smaller groups

Smaller Groups (20-25 minutes) Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Have someone read Matthew 19:10-12. Jesus, who was single, reminds us that people can be single for many reasons and he doesn't argue with his disciples that for some, it may be better to not marry!

- What are some ways that being single can feel like it isn't a choice for you?
- How do you invite God into this season of deferred desires?
- What are some ways that you can feel empowered to be single and find joy in it?
- What are some of the pressures and challenges you are facing as a single person?

Have someone read Mark 3:31-35. Jesus emphasizes that earthly, biological family points to the ultimate and permanent heavenly family!

- How do Jesus's words confront your ideas about the importance of your earthly family?
- Those of us who are married, how do we include those of us who are single into key moments (birthdays, holidays, etc.) in your family's life? What are some ways you want to grow in this?
- Those of us who are married, how do you invite families into key moments in your life?" What are the challenges of doing so?

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. Marriage and family are important to build culture, but they are temporary and point to what is permanent and ultimate: the Kingdom of God!

- How can our community group help one another to leverage whatever condition we are in, whether married or single!

- How can we show, in practical ways, greater honor to one another and value our relationships with one another?

Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups (5-10 minutes)

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

“I’m praying for _____”.

“I have been having good conversations with

_____”.

_____ on _____

_____ (day of the week).”

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)