

Small group optional guide: Singleness

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

WORD: In His Image series, WK 3 – Singleness

Here we are looking at the very important and significant topic of singleness, and considering some of the very real challenges of living a life as a Christian as a single person, whether that be permanent or temporary.

➤ The headline statistic for the UK is that 40% of adults are single

1) Jesus Understands: Jesus lived his human life as a single person. Hebrews 4:15 tells us He was tempted in every way but did not sin.

➤ Jesus knows and understands the challenges of singleness.

Worldly viewpoint: if we are single there is somehow something wrong with us, that it is because we are not desirable / singleness is a status of identity / or stay single and get your fulfilment from your freedom; i.e. sexual partners and experiences...ultimately you are the god of your own life and you decide what's best for you.

God's Viewpoint: Read 1 Corinthians 7

- Paul is single but is likely to have been married (looking at his background in that cultural context)
- The Church in Corinth was struggling with issues relating to sexual immortality and division
- V32-35 does Paul think we should all be single like him? He compares the divided focus of the married vs the opportunity for sole focus on pleasing God for the single
- There are advantages to being single but marriage but the Bible and Jesus Himself holds marriage as a very important and cherished thing.

If you are Single ? How does this help me?

- Paul is certainly pointing to a higher calling of singleness for some, but it is still ok to desire to be married...but don't hold this up as some idol that marriage will in some way complete you

The Good News - We are made complete in Christ

Revelation 21:3-4...He will wipe away every tear...the old order of things has passed away – we will all be single in heaven; there is no marriage in heaven outside of Jesus and his bride (the church...US!) Matthew 22:30

Summary:

Singleness or marriage is a somewhat compromised state in a presently fallen World, goodness and inherent challenges and difficulties in both.

John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly – Any labels the World has placed on you with its distorted view needs to be lifted to the light of Christ.

Questions to consider:

Q) If you are single do you want to be around families more? If you are married or a family, do you invite those who are single to be around your family life? (what would that look like?)

Q) Small group; is our group made up of people the same as each other or do we display the family of God, the church (married, single, older, younger)

Q) If you are single, have you considered being a spiritual parent/brother/sister to someone; in a discipleship group?

Q) How hard is it to trust that I am complete in Christ, Jesus is enough for me? (what is it that makes it so hard to accept/walk in that way)

WORSHIP songs: In Christ alone / Who you say I am / God I look to you / Consuming fire

FEATURED EVENTS



Foundations course

📅 Thu May 23, 2024

🕒 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

📍 Board Room



Joining JCC Course

📅 Wed Jun 12, 2024

🕒 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

📍 Board Room



CAP money coaching

📅 Tue Jul 9, 2024

🕒 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

📍 Jubilee Community Centre

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

- What plans have you made as a small group to reach out to friends/family/neighbours over this next half term and over the summer?
- Plan a social, picnic, bbq and write down the names that you would like to invite; pray for them tonight
- Plan who will host, pick a date and time...send the invites this week

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Our gift day is in 2 weeks; 2nd June

We will be giving toward:

- 1) our community support projects (i.e. the Hub), that run through JCC
- 2) Church plants across New Ground
- 3) Improving the acoustics in meeting rooms at the centre for inclusion and sensory purposes.

Please have a chat in your group and ask how you come to the amount you feel God is asking you to give;

- How can you involve you family and children?
- Who do you speak to if you are concerned that you cannot afford to give?

COURSES

This term we have several courses that you can find on our website calendar; CAP Money course, Joining JCC course, Foundations, Spurgeon's Parenting course...

- Please go to the featured events and sign up