

## Family Worship Guide – Week 30

### MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 – I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

### READ

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.

The culture we live in usually views being single in one of two ways. Either it is seen as an opportunity for complete freedom to pursue any and all kinds of pleasures and desires, or it is something to be begrudgingly tolerated or endured until finding someone to marry. The Bible, however, has a very different view of singleness. It indicates that God calls some to be single in order to foster undivided devotion to Christ and provide greater freedom to advance the gospel. Marriage brings with it its own set of concerns completely unique to that type of relationship. Singles are free from those concerns, whether for a season or a lifetime, and are therefore able to exercise their freedom for the glory of God and the furtherment of His Kingdom. Consequently, believers should consider several factors when making decisions about marital status.

#### Questions:

- What do you think is good about being single?
- What do you think is challenging for people that are single?
- How can singles maximize their relationship status for God's glory?

**Bottom Line:** God's call to singleness provides opportunity for undivided devotion to Christ and less stress in gospel advancement.

### SING

Whether single or married, our freedom to worship the name of the Lord never changes. So we join with believers from all stages and walks of life in exalting King Jesus. As we continue in worship, let's sing "Come People of the Risen King". Written in 2007 by Getty and Townend, the lyrics describe the beauty of the global Church joining in unified praise. The chorus exhorts us:

*Rejoice, rejoice!  
Let every tongue rejoice  
One heart, one voice  
Oh Church of Christ rejoice!*

In singleness or marriage, let's adore our great God who has drawn us to Himself.

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool

- Remind your preschooler that God created marriage between a man and a woman as a beautiful picture of His love for us, His church. Marriage is a blessing from God. Did you know that although God calls some people to be married, He also calls some people to be single, or not married? Being single is also a blessing from God.

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 with your preschooler.
- Ask your preschooler to think about some things that they enjoy spending lots of time doing every day (ex: playing outside, spending time with friends, favorite games or sports, visiting grandparents).
- It's great to be able to spend your time doing the things you enjoy right? As a child, you have the freedom to spend more time doing the things you love. While grown ups, like married couples, spend more time doing things that we need to do to help take care of you and others, we may not always have as much freedom to do other things. We have jobs, chores, and many things we are responsible for that take up a lot of our time. When God calls us to be married and have families, it is a blessing. But at the same time, we also have many responsibilities that go along with that blessing that can limit the amount of time we can spend on other things.
- Explain to your preschooler that God's plan for us is perfect and good all the time. When God calls a person to be single, or to not get married, He blesses them with the freedom to spend more time doing exactly what He wants them to do. Single people might have more time to spend reading the Bible, talking to people about Jesus, and going places to share God's love with others. Being single is also a blessing from God!
- Pray and thank God for His love for us and especially for those people He has called to be single.

### Children

- These past few weeks we have been talking about God's design for marriage, and families have had the opportunity to help shape their children's view on marriage based on God's Word. This week we have the privilege of discussing how we can live our lives in a way that honors God while we are still unmarried, and even as children.
- Start by reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.
- Explain how this passage is teaching us that people who are not married (including children) have the freedom to focus on simply pleasing God and furthering His kingdom. When you get married, life can get more complicated as you have to spend time and energy caring for each other. But people who are not married can simply focus on pleasing God.
- Ask your child how they think this passage applies to them now while they are still children. Help them see that as children, life is much more simple than when we become adults. Ask them how we can use our time to honor God and further His kingdom.
- You might also use this verse to explain to your children that although many people do grow up and get married, not everyone does. God calls some people to stay single, and that is not a bad thing!
- Re-read 1 Corinthians 7:35. Ask what they think this verse means to them as children. (Another way to understand this verse is that God wants us to be able to develop a way of life in which we can spend plenty of time together with God without a lot of distractions.)
- Talk about ways we can make sure we are spending plenty of time together with God without distractions. (Examples might be setting aside a regular time each day to read God's Word and pray, establishing this spiritual discipline [or habit] while you are young.)
- This summer, many children have even fewer distractions (and more free time) since they are out of school. Brainstorm some ways they can use this extra time to honor God and share Jesus with others. (Examples might be making good choices while they are with friends, sewing Gospel threads into their conversations with friends while they are playing, inviting friends over for a Bible study, etc.)
- Pray and ask God to help us all honor Him with our time, while we are young and unmarried, and as we grow into adults.

### Students

- What comes to mind when you hear these terms: dating, boyfriend/girlfriend, high school drama, and going out?
- If this is not something you are already involved in, it will be in the coming years. High school and college are on the horizon and dating relationships seem to go with the territory.
- Reread 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. This passage speaks of our devotion to Christ. Paul warns his readers to be aware of their attention, affections, and devotion to Christ. Why do you think he does this?
- What are the things that might divide our devotion to Christ? Make a list.
- How might dating relationships cloud our devotion to Christ? What interests or activities might cloud our devotion?
- Read these passages and discuss the principles found in the text. As you read keep "undivided devotion to Christ" at the forefront of your discussion: Proverbs 6:27-28, Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, Proverbs 4:23.
- Scripture never says relationships or worldly interests are bad in and of themselves. However, inappropriate, intimate, or premature dating relationships can most definitely divide our attention to Christ. This can also be said of interests that become idols in our lives.
- What are ways to guard against divided devotion to Christ?