



Going Deeper Questions
Singleness
Kelliann Henry

Sermon Scripture Passage

1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 17-31

Fun icebreaker question

What makes for a great story? What's one of your favorite books, movies, or TV shows, and what do you find most compelling about that story?

Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret

The "Respond Actively" exercise from 10/22 was to write on a post-it note "I am a Saint," leave the note somewhere you could see it throughout the week, and then reflect on what that identity feels like, what's hard to believe about it, and what it inspires in you. Did anyone complete this exercise, or otherwise reflect on your identity as a saint? What did you learn about God and yourself through that experience?

Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, what stood out for you? Are there any ideas you hope to explore further, or any takeaways?

My Story

1) This Sunday was the first of 3 sermons on sexuality and relationships. If you're comfortable sharing, what has been your experience with these topics in the Church? What's it like for you to enter into this conversation?

2) Paul's view of singleness as a faithful form of discipleship and flourishing in 1 Cor. 7 is rooted in Jesus' teaching and embodiment of a more expansive understanding of intimacy in the family of God. What has your experience been with opportunities to know and be known in friendship, community, and the church? What makes this invitation challenging? Have you seen any positive examples?

Dive Deeper

Choose your own adventure or explore more than one if you have time:

1) Have a few volunteers each look up one of the following gospel passages: Matthew 12:46-50, John 15:12-13, Matthew 26:36-38, John 19:25-27. Read each passage aloud, then discuss as a group: What do you notice? What does Jesus teach and model about expansive intimacy in the family of God?

2) Re-read 1 Cor. 7:17-24. How does the race for honor intersect with conversations around sexuality and relationships for the Corinthians? What about in our context today?

3) Re-read this week's passage (1 Cor. 7:7-9, 17-31 - or if you're feeling ambitious, read the full chapter). What catches your attention? What questions does this passage raise for you? In light of the passage context and the nuance with which Paul writes, what are some overall takeaways on singleness and marriage for the Church? What does Paul expect of the Church as a whole for singleness in particular to be a viable pathway of discipleship and flourishing?

Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively

Most of the stories about expansive intimacy shared in the sermon were from everyday, ordinary experiences, like praying with a friend during the commute to work, and inviting a Lifegroup community to help pack for a move. Is there a small way you can more deeply invite a friend or someone in your community into the life you already have this week, by sharing an easy meal, running errands together, meeting at a park with your kids, etc.?

A special question for couples and families

In a Christian vision for expansive intimacy in the family of God, marital and biological family are not diminished, but are re-envisioned as sites for spiritual friendship, kinship, and hospitality. Have you experienced your marriage or family in this way? What makes this invitation challenging? Have you seen or experienced any positive examples? Do you sense any invitations to further engage your marriage or family as a site of hospitality and kinship?
