



Say it in a sentence: You are not ready for the journey of marriage or singleness until you look to something outside of marriage for contentment.

(Obviously, small group leaders should recognize how the marital status of those in the group will affect how the questions are applied. Whether married or single, the Bible shows us how God works in our relationships.)

Whether you are married or single, you are not ready for marriage or singleness until you can say...

1. I'm realistic. I will give up my search for the perfect "soul mate." (Matt. 19:10-12)

The disciples respond to Jesus teaching on marriage and divorce with the phrase, "It is better not to marry." Why do you think they thought that? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How does our culture define a "soul mate?" Is this concept biblical? How does this idea create unrealistic expectations for both single and married people? If you are single, has this idea prolonged your singleness?

If you are married, has marriage proven to be harder than you thought? In what ways? Have you thought it should not be so hard?

2. I'm content. I will not allow my marital status to define my worth. (1 Cor. 7:7-9, 17, 27-29)

What value does our culture place on the social status of singleness and marriage? Do you feel more or less valuable because of your marital status? How does the Bible free us of that value assignment?

What does Paul mean when he says those who have wives should live as though they had none? Are you so focused on a love relationship that you have neglected your love relationship with God? How do we turn a spouse or marriage into an idol? What can married people learn from singles?

Unfulfilled longings are part of our fallenness whether you are single or married. How has God used unfulfilled longings to drive you to him?

Discuss this statement: Marriage is not a cure for loneliness.

3. I'm focused. I will use my singleness as an opportunity to serve God and others with undivided devotion. (1 Cor. 7:32-35)

If you are single, what are you doing to serve God and others that would be more difficult if you were married? Why is it important for singles to have friends who are married?

If you are married, what are you doing to serve the needs of single people? Why is it important for married people to have friends who are single?





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

4. I'm careful. I will not give myself physically to someone until I am ready to give my whole self in marriage. (1 Cor. 6:13-18)

Our culture views sex as an appetite to be fed like hunger or thirst. Why does the Christian view of sex warn against giving yourself to someone physically who refuses to give his/her whole self to you in marriage?

How does physical intimacy with someone with whom you are not married distort the spiritual intimacy Christ gives to someone in a love relationship with him?

5. I'm satisfied. I will not look to marriage to provide what only Jesus can provide. (John 4:13-18)

Are you desperate for romance because you are looking to a spouse to provide what only Jesus can provide?

Are you absolutely sure you have responded with an "I do" to Jesus' proposal of an eternal love relationship?

Have you given up your independence to come into relationship with Jesus? Have you committed your life to him in a relationship much like marriage or is your relationship more indicative of "dating?"

Additional Scripture:

Proverbs 18:22

Proverbs 21:19

Psalms 84:11

Psalms 37:3-5

Proverbs 6:23-35

Revelation 22:17

