

## LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 21st April

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

#### This Week's BIG IDEA

Week 2 of our time in 1 Corinthians 7. This week we remind ourselves of the foundations of identity and future hope that we looked at last week and then look at Paul's teaching on singleness on the basis of those foundations. It is also an opportunity for us to discuss how we continue to build a community of faith where everyone feels accepted and able to grow in God, regardless of their marital status. In the sermon this week we also looked at one of the big lies from the enemy. Satan and the world would have us believe that it is impossible to be truly fulfilled unless you are in a relationship and sexually active. Paul exposes this lie – which was equally prevalent in Corinth – through his teaching and his lifestyle.

#### Focussing on God

Spend some time meditating on Psalm 84. Let the psalm provoke prayers of thanks for God's blessings and spend some time speaking the blessings of God over one another. You could use the following song to focus you on the goodness of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4>

#### Getting into Scripture

Read together 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, 29-31

- Remind one another of the foundations that Paul is reminding us of in these verses

Read together 1 Corinthians 7:8, 25-28, 32-40

- why can we trust Paul's teaching in this passage, even though he is sharing his own thoughts, not commands from the Lord?
- What, do you think, are 'the troubles' that married couples face in this world?
- Concerned about the affairs of this world' mentioned in vs 33 and 34 means to be 'anxious, pulled in different directions'- where are our hearts and attentions divided from Jesus at the moment?
- How can we support one another in prayer over these concerns and also hold one another accountable?
- How are the single people in your group building 'undivided devotion to the Lord?' Ask them to share some practical examples to inspire the group.
- Spend some time discussing where our Church community is doing well at 'one anothering' single believers and where we need to improve. (Leaders' Note: please feed this back (confidentially) to your pastorate leaders/elders- we'd love to hear from you!)

#### Time to Pray

Spend some time praying for singles in your group and across Everyday Church.