

## LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

There is a lot to cover over the next couple of weeks as we unpack chapter 7, remember these guides are just that, guides. Don't feel you have to get through every question, they are there primarily to facilitate discussion of the text and enable prayer and pastoral care of one another.

#### This Week's BIG IDEA

Over the next two weeks we will be looking at Paul's teaching on Marriage and Singleness. In week 1 we will review the foundations that Paul reinforces about identity and eternal focus. We will then look at his teaching on marriage in light of those foundations. In week 2 we will focus on his teaching on singleness, on how we build communities of faith that honour marriage and singleness equally and on how this teaching challenges one of the big lies of the enemy in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These are sensitive subjects and people's questions about marriage, singleness and divorce are often rooted in personal experience and pain. We need to consciously lean into compassion and grace as we lead through these subjects.

#### Focussing on God

If we are unsure of our identity in Christ it is very difficult to allow the Word of God to shape our views on sex and relationships, especially in a world obsessed with both. Spend some time in worship reminding one another of our identity and security in God established through the finished work of Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MUNywHsZPU>

#### Getting into Scripture

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

- What is the repeated phrase that appears three times in verses 17-24?
- How is Paul using these verses to help the Corinthians view their identity as rooted in Christ?
- Why is this important when thinking about our marital status?
- Having rooted the Corinthians present identity in Christ, what is he then encouraging them to do in verses 29-31?

Read together 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

- Who does Paul identify as the enemy of healthy marriages?
- Which three principles/activities does Paul identify as key ways to resist the enemy? (In his preach Simon identifies these as: Mutual honour and accountability in marriage; Sex; Prayer)

Read together 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 and 39-40

- Which different marriage situations does Paul address in these verses?
- Based on these verses what are the core principles that Paul is reinforcing around biblical marriage?
- Remembering the tension between being complacent about divorce on one hand and condemned about divorce on the other, how would you summarise Paul's teaching on divorce and separation in this passage?
- What other passages in scripture might Paul be referring to on this subject?

#### Time to Pray

Spend some time praying for marriages in your group and across Everyday. We will be looking at Paul's teaching on singleness next week and will make time to pray for singles then.