



• **Good Evening Singles,**

Welcome to Singles Training! We are excited to go through the Word of God with you all for the next 6 weeks. Who you marry is one of the most important decisions of your life. Your success in the Kingdom hinges on it, and the upcoming families that will come from this group will be tomorrow's ministry families—this is a generational battle.

Let's cover an overview of the next six weeks.

Singles Training Overview

- The Target (lesson 1-4): *what are you supposed to be aiming at?*
- The Bow (lesson 5) — *the process that draws you back and propels you to your target.*
- The Archer (lesson 6) — *the one who never misses the target.*

Let's begin with a proper perspective about your current circumstance as a single: **Singleness Is a Gift!**

○ **Matthew 19:11–12 (NIV)**

- ¹¹ Jesus replied, “**Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.** ¹² **For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.**”

Jesus says the words, to whom it has been given. If you're not married right now you could see yourself as missing out on what everyone else is enjoying or you could see your state as a gift from God. If you don't see it as a gift you may be in danger of never seeing your current state as a gift.

Once you get married you'll resent your state without kids, once you have kids you'll resent that they're not older, or that you don't own a house yet, or that you have to stay home with them and so on and so

forth. The problem is not that your current state is not a beautiful gift given from God, it's that your perspective is off and you're resenting the boundary lines He has drawn for you, seeing them as a punishment or at best just a waiting room until your life begins. In a sense you are waiting for the ultimate fulfilment of all your desires on the day Christ returns so learning to delight in the Lord in every season and be fulfilled by Him positions you for a life full of gratitude and contentment.

Next let's ask an important question: **What Are You Envisioning About Your Future Marriage?**

In anticipation of getting married some day—never aim at a low ideal. In all honesty, when it comes to marriage most women are thinking about the wedding day and the men are thinking about the wedding night — instead of what they should aiming at for the rest of a life together.

You may be thinking of situations where someone did this the wrong way and it still "worked out"—that's the world's approach. God's Word works in every situation and every generation. You should want the strongest possible foundation to build a marriage on.

So, let's begin discussing the Target—**What you should be aiming at and what God is aiming you at.**

(SLIDE)



Singles Training

The Target: Lesson 1

The goal of this teaching is not merely to give you a target without a way to reach it. These size weeks are all about what to aim at and how to get there. This is the difference between a paper map and a GPS. With a folding map you're not always sure exactly where you are, even if you know where you're going. A GPS recenters and recalculates so you always know where to turn.

Finding a spouse is a difficult endeavor. The pursuit is filled with emotions, worry, fear and stress. The Word of God is the solution to clearing the distractions away and finding how God feels about you and your future.

We are going to give you **three foundations for aiming at the target**



1. Clear Vision for Your Life

Let's start with a question—what is something you called to accomplish in your life?

*Have a few students answer.

Knowing your calling is your biggest need as a single person — it's helps you evaluate compatibility with someone else and have clear vision and direction in what you should be spending your time doing now as a single person.

○ 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV)

- ⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Singles can feel like their state is a punishment — but whatever state you're in, single or married, is a gift from God. Even though marriage is celebrated more visibly, are you grateful for the state you're actually in? A good marriage will amplify and multiply your life — but

it starts with gratitude now.

- **Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV)**

- **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

What does contentment as a single person look like practically? Let's walk through a few examples where contentment would be challenged.

- **You have affection for someone who does not reciprocate:** Contentment means you can accept their lack of interest without trying to manipulate, persuade, impress, or continually place yourself in their path. You can genuinely want what is best for them, even if that does not include you. You refuse to let rejection become a verdict on your worth.
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- **You feel like no one notices you:** Contentment means you do not need constant attention or romantic interest to feel significant. You can remain joyful, engaged, generous, and present even during a season where nobody seems to be pursuing you. You trust that being unseen by people does not mean being overlooked by God.
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- **You fear you may never find someone to love or be loved by:** Contentment means refusing to let an unknown future rob you of the life God has given you now. You can acknowledge, “I deeply desire marriage,” while still saying, “Even if I do not know when—or whether—that happens, God is enough for me today.” Contentment turns “What if I never...?” into “Whatever God gives me, I will still belong to Him and live fully.”

- - **You watch a friend or peer get married while you are still single:** Contentment means you can celebrate their blessing without interpreting it as evidence that God has forgotten you. Their wedding does not diminish your future. You do not compare timelines, become cynical, or secretly resent their happiness. You can say, “God has done something beautiful for them, and I do not need it to happen for me today in order to rejoice with them.”
 - **You like someone who likes someone else:** Contentment means allowing them the freedom to choose someone else without rivalry, bitterness, jealousy, or trying to sabotage the relationship. You can release the person rather than treating your desire as an entitlement. Their preference for someone else does not mean you lost something God promised you.

- All of these situations can feel like you just keep losing and missing out. That is not God's perspective. Perhaps, God uses these moments to teach you not to grasp for relationships He has not given you, so that you are free to receive whatever and whoever He actually has for you. Let's move to the second foundations.



2. Convictions Based on Absolutes

Convictions are not convictions when they are based on your situation or circumstances. You must learn where your convictions are, ensure they are based on the Word, and decide them before you get into the situation.

Convictions set ahead of time will help you succeed and make you like a rock.

○ Hebrews 12:14–18 (ESV)

- ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “**root of bitterness**” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is **sexually immoral or unholy** like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though

he sought it with tears.

Esau is described as failing to obtain the Grace of God. It gives two examples of why that need to become convictions: bitterness and sexual immorality.

Esau was bitter towards his brother who wronged him and was given a different blessing than him. Esau was sexually immoral by marrying someone his father never authorized. These are some of the fastest ways to miss God's grace; it costs you something to dwell in either. Bitterness blinds you, whether toward an authority or toward someone who rejected you. Sexual immorality binds you together with someone/something not your spouse.

These are convictions you need:

- I will not be sexually immoral
- I will not be bitter

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You can see how these are both absolutes based on the word. Many of you may be thinking of ways you have not lived with these convictions. Here is an important scripture to remember in light of those feelings.

- **Matthew 6:12–15 (ESV)**

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12 and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, **15** but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Let's move to the third foundation.



3. Choices Bring Consequences

If you sow a thought, you will reap an act — what you meditate on, you begin to justify wanting in your heart. Your thought life determines a great deal of what you do. The more you invest your thoughts in things God didn't give you, the more perverse you become, and the more it affects your actions.

○ Galatians 5:22–26 (ESV)

- ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Convictions must be set by the Word and the Spirit together — you

must stay in step with the Spirit. The enemy is a master at making you feel you must make a bad decision right now, especially about something you want. This is why you need a proper Target so your desires are the same as the Lord's for your life. James writes on this in James 1.

- **James 1:13–15 (ESV)**

- **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.
14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



You can see how it did not begin with an action but a desire contrary to God. That desire dragged and entices you (first in your thoughts). Then it leads you to sin, which grows and grows until death occurs.

Fill in the blank to this sentence honestly: **"The person I want to**

marry will be_____".

What would you say? Did God actually desire that for you? We need God's thoughts as our thoughts to counter desires that aren't godly — especially about a future spouse.

Example: trying to marry someone who is deliberately NOT like your dad, or NOT like your mom. **When you set your desires based on old hurts, wounds, or failures, you're setting yourself up for failure.**

Assignment: Five Things You Are Looking For in a Spouse

(Have class write down their answers)

Where Did Your List Come From?

A physical-attributes-only list isn't enough — but don't fear the opposite extreme either. God is not going to cause you to marry someone you find ugly. You just can't make physical attraction the only component.

Ask these questions about your list:

- How did you derive this list?
- Is it healthy?
- Did it come from the Lord?

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Childish, "Sunday school" answers aren't what we're looking for.

"Loves Jesus, has a Bible, goes to church" — does that mean you should marry the first person who checks those boxes?

This assignment is intentionally hard — five minutes to describe the most important decision of your life. We are aiming you at the target for your whole life; let go of the fear that God would give you someone you find ugly.

So let's talk about **how to build the list.**

- **Hebrews 4:11–13 (ESV)**

- ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and

active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

How did the wilderness generation fall? By following the example of disobedience. If your list didn't come from the Word, where did it come from — your own desires, the enemy, or the world? The one sure place to derive your list from is the Word. How many of you wrote down five scriptures for your list? Four? Three? No verses?

How about a biblical character or descriptor instead of a verse? Is the person you always imagined actually someone God told you from His word you should marry? You're aiming at the most important target in the world, the Word of God helps us actually find the right one.

You will know it's the right person when you meet them and they resemble the godly traits you've been searching for in the Word.

- **Deuteronomy 30:11–14 (ESV)**

- ¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Your expectations should come from the Word — it is not too difficult or too far from you. Good marriages start on a foundation of wanting

the things God wants for your life and in your spouse. The Word of God must be the precedent.

Your Destiny Is a Matter of Choice, Not Chance. Things don't just happen — they are based on your choices, and your choices have consequences and benefits. Be careful where your choices and desires lead you. Small decisions now can lead to radical outcomes. For example: beginning to walk down a path of physical intimacy (holding hands, kissing, and more) starts to glue your heart to another person, and it creates havoc if you have to pull away and they weren't the target.

Be careful where your choices and desires lead you. Beginning to walk down a path of physical intimacy (holding hands, kissing, and more) starts to glue your heart to another person, and it creates havoc if you have to pull away and they weren't the target.

Leave behind faithless, feckless thoughts that presume God cannot or will not work on your behalf. He will not make you marry someone ugly. He will not keep it a mystery so you keep missing it. When you make your desires the same as His he will help you.

We want to give you three things to be aiming at right now.



- Cultivate a Close Walk (Without Plateauing)
- Have you ever felt closer to the Lord than you do right now? You want to be closest to Him precisely while you're making these choices. Often it's the opposite — your focus shifts entirely onto the other person instead of your relationship with the Lord, and that causes your heart to "adhere" to theirs whether or not they're actually the target. People often decide what they want, attach themselves to someone, and then ask God to bless the decision after the fact. You need closeness with the Lord prior to that adhesion.

Most people grow close to the Lord and then plateau for a while. God wants you confident when making these choices — not stuck. Here are **Three Ways to Stay Passionate Without Plateauing** (SLIDE)

- Lose Everything
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- Philippians 3:7–8 (ESV)
- ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Who can point to how Adam received his wife? Adam didn't have to search for Eve — God prepared, designed, and delivered her to him. You don't know what you need for your whole life, but He does. You want a close enough walk with the Lord that you can recognize the gift He's giving you before adhesion, before attachment.

Never let your desire settle where God hasn't directed it — including your own list of five traits. Lose everything joyfully: every expectation, thought, and vision. Ask yourself — will your list still work when you're 70? Does it work the same at 20 and at 70? He must become the singular, wholehearted focus of your life.

- Continue
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- **2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV)**
- **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Lose your list, your description, your hope for a certain outcome — and continue in the Scripture instead. Scripture will present to you exactly what and who you need, and this is what keeps you from plateauing.

The more sure you are of your calling, the easier it will be to identify the one God is presenting to you.

- Hide
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- **Psalm 119:11 (ESV)**
11 I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

If the Word really is your treasure, wouldn't it have shown up in your list? Most of the time our own desires feel like the most important thing, and we just want God to bless them.

The spouse won't be presented to us because of our own greatness — you won't be able to help finding your spouse if you are seeking Him rightly and truly hiding His Word in your heart.

Prayer: "Lord, present to us our spouse."



A Godly Target

What you should be aiming for

- I. Cultivate a close walk**
 - Three ways to be passionate without plateauing:
 - Lose everything — Phil 3:7-8
 - Continue — 2 Tim 3:14-17
 - Hide — Ps 119:11
- II. Something to work with**
 - Work at it — Col 3:23-24
 - Eat — 2 Thes 3:6-7, 10
- III. The One**
 - Allow the Lord to bring him/her to you — Gen 2:18, 22
 - What draws you to them — Gen 24:16
 - Physical attraction
 - Character & relationship with Jesus
- IV. Understanding your own calling/gifting**

- Give Him Something to Work With
- Work at It
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- **Colossians 3:23–24 (ESV)**

- **23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

This is how you cultivate a relationship with Him while you work hard. If your sole goal is to work hard for Him, He can present to you what you actually need. If you're working with all your heart for Him, your fears should be alleviated — Adam was asleep, and God provided a spouse. There's great safety in this process. Working hard also creates opportunity for God to present the right person, and it makes you attractive to a future spouse.

- Eat
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- **2 Thessalonians 3:6–7 (ESV)**
- **6** Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Don't assume that while you're idle, lazy, or doing nothing, God will present you a spouse anyway. If you're too young to have an outside job, look at your chores and responsibilities — cultivate diligence there, along with a rich life in the Word, the Spirit, and prayer.

Do you really want to marry someone who is more interested in scrolling through reels than taking the Kingdom seriously and working hard towards it? Take whatever you're doing as seriously as your lifelong calling, and God will aim you at the right target.



- The One
- Allow the Lord to bring him or her to you.
- God is not fickle, double-minded, or unpredictable— it's not "this is the one" one month and "no, this is the one" the next.
 - **Genesis 2:18 (ESV)**
- **18** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
 - **Genesis 2:22 (ESV)**
- **22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

God made Eve suitable for Adam, and He brought her to him — the meeting has to be divine. Be confident enough that you won't accept someone as a potential spouse who hasn't actually been brought to you. You can accept them as a brother or sister, but adhering to them

prematurely hurts when you have to pull away.

Keep respectful boundaries. You can notice godly traits that you admire in someone as a brother or sister without that meaning you should marry them — that's not an insult to them. Your relationships are meant to show you the traits in the opposite sex that you're rightly drawn to, because you see them modeled in the Word.

- **Psalm 37:4 (ESV)**

- **4** Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Be pliable — let Him mold you.

- **What Draws You to Them**

- **Genesis 24:16 (NIV)**

- **16** The woman was **very beautiful**, a virgin; **no man had ever slept with her**. She went down to the spring, **filled her jar and came up again**.

The first thing the passage states is that She was physically attractive, and lovely in form — this is the first thing noticed (by Eliezer, on Isaac's behalf).

The second is that she kept herself for her husband — holy and reverent, kept for the Lord.

And the third thing is that her behavior reflected Christ — she demonstrated her love for God in her actions, not only toward people but even the animals she served.

That's the whole package. Do not negotiate on these three principles — **you want to rightly envy their walk with the Lord.**



- **Understanding your own calling/gifting**
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- **Genesis 1:28 (ESV)**
- **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Who is "them"? What chapter is Eve actually created in? They were designed to be together — two halves of one whole — even before Eve appears on the scene.

You must know your own calling so you can recognize whether there's a real match with a potential spouse. Do you sacrifice the call of God on your life just because someone is attractive, has character, and loves the Lord? What if you're both attractive, both godly, but called in drastically different directions?

- **Amos 3:3 (ESV)**

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“Do two walk together,
unless they have agreed to meet?”

It isn't about finding an "acceptable" spouse — it's about finding the one God has called to be the other half of your calling. Where are you called, and where are they called? If they aren't called to be where you are, it doesn't matter how attractive or godly they are.

Homework for Next Week

Take this assignment seriously. Write a paragraph explaining the Oswald Chambers quote, "an unguarded strength is a double weakness," and how it applies to your own life.

