

# It's complicate<sup>d</sup>

but it doesn't have to be

## THE SINGLE LIFE

### Big Idea

In this message, Pastor Mark talked about the tension of the single life. Whether we are single ourselves, have single kids, or mentor single people, it's important for us to know that God designed singleness as a gift. Singleness can be complicated in our modern culture, with the stigma of the "single status," the difficulty of defining dating, and navigating relationships on social media. Most of all, our hurt and hesitation, from past relationships or fear of the future, can make singleness complicated. But it doesn't have to be this way!

In 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 (MSG), Paul explains how singleness is a gift from God. First, singleness allows us to live "free of complications"; this doesn't mean life will be "easy," but it can be simple. That simplicity allows us to focus on developing ourselves into who God created us to be. With that focus, we can also "concentrate on pleasing the Master," seeking God with an undistracted devotion. Next, singleness gives us more time and energy to invest in the things of God. We have more margin to do things that make a difference in the lives of others. Finally, God's ultimate desire for us in our singleness is to become whole and holy. Dr. Les Parrott says, "If you try to build intimacy with another person before you have gotten whole on your own, all your relationships become an attempt to complete yourself." Whether or not our singleness is a season or lifelong, we can be complete and secure in our relationship with God. Let's yield to God's perspective on singleness and see it as the gift it is!

### Discussion Questions

- In what way was your perspective on singleness challenged by this message?
- Pastor Mark said our singlehood can be simple, seeking, serving, and secure. If you're single, which area do you need to grow in the most? If you're married, what do you think would have been most beneficial for you to grow in before marriage?
- Whether we're single or married, God's heart is for us to be whole, holy, and healthy. In what ways are you looking for something other than God to "complete" you?

### Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for being the One who completes me. Thank You for allowing us to experience wholeness in both marriage and singleness. Help me yield to Your perspective on singleness and make a difference with my life, for Your glory.

### Next Steps

Pastor Mark encouraged us to be "Single and Serving." This is a great time to be fully invested in God's House, and you can start by joining the Dream Team. Come to Step Four of the Growth Track, and find out how you can use your gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

### Leader Tip

It is difficult for some people to open up about this topic. If your group is slow to answer the discussion questions, be ready to offer your thoughts first to break the ice.