



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Sermon Study

Week of April 15, 2018
Sermon: Family Series I
Singularity

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Scavenger Hunt**. Divide the group into teams of up to five. Provide them with a list of items to find. Choose items that can be found in the immediate area, pockets, purses, or on-line. For example: a credit card, a digital photo of a family, a pair of reading glasses, a baby picture, a business card, and the address of a donut shop in Little Rock. Take a pic of the items and text to the Life Group leader with the image and their team number. The first team to find the objects and text to the leader, wins!

NOTE: Feel free to use as much or as little of the study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN “Singularity”

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SINGLE PEOPLE

A. Intentional Singleness.

- These people have what the Bible calls “the gift of singleness,” who could live forever without marriage:

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 7:7

- You know if you have this gift if you can live your entire life without sex and it doesn’t frustrate you.

B. Situational Singleness.

- This is singleness by circumstances: marriage hasn’t worked out yet, you’re too young to be married, you haven’t found the right person, you’ve never been asked, or you’re divorced or widowed.

C. Preferential Singleness.

- This is singleness by preference, not conviction. People can choose to be unmarried for good reasons, but you can also choose to stay unmarried for wrong reasons:
 - › Tight with money, control freak, fear of failure as a married person, fear of talking to others, not wanting to increase responsibility, wants sex without marital commitment
 - › Note: Any fear is generally not a good reason to remain single.

THOUGHTS ON SINGLENESS

- Being single is a great time to enjoy. If you’re single, don’t hang

your head in shame. Enjoy the season!

HAVE SOMEONE READ PHILIPPIANS 4:11-12 (NIV)

- Paul wasn't always content; he had to learn it. We are not naturally content. In this passage he's directly talking about his financial life but indirectly talking about the secret of life: being content.
 - › People will not encourage you to be content: "When will you get a girlfriend? get engaged? get married? have a baby?"
- Enjoy every season you are in. Have fun. If you always look down the road you will miss what's right in front of you.
- When you are married, you no longer live for yourself but for the other person's good. Being single is a great time to get prepared.

READ PSALM 37:23 (NLT)

- In life there is often a preparation phase between you and your dream. We want to skip that phase, but God is working in you.
 - › In the Bible, David was anointed king but then went through 15 years of craziness that prepared him to be king. God does things inside of us when we are single that can't happen when we are in a relationship. Some of you need to be single because God wants your undivided attention. Fall in love with God before you fall in love with someone else.
 - › Let singleness be a time that you deal with yourself, find the rhythm of your walk in Christ, figure out your purpose, and get rid of baggage. We have several ministries and life groups within New Life Church to help support these goals, including:
 - › Connect (helps begin the process of finding your purpose),
 - › Fresh Start (helps you find the rhythm in your walk in Christ),
 - › Real Change (helps you deal with yourself and baggage)
 - › NLC School of Ministry (growing deeper in the Word and in confidence in your ministry calling—whether in the marketplace, as a ministry lay leader, or vocationally)
- Marriage is less about making you HAPPY and more about making you HOLY.
- Marriage will not cure loneliness.
 - › If you're miserable when you're single, you WILL be miserable when you're married. You'll just have someone to dump your misery on.
- Get settled into your walk with God, and don't push this season:
 - › God wants to make you a leader BEFORE He makes you a husband. He wants to make you a servant BEFORE He makes you a spouse. He wants your confidence to come from Him BEFORE He gives you a confidant. He wants you to feel loved by Him BEFORE He gives you a lover. It's a great time to seek after God.

HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 COR 7:32-33

- Over 50% of all marriages end in divorce. So if you feel like you're picky, you should be. It's healthy to want God's best for your life.

READ MATT 7:7-8, ROMANS 8:25 (NIV)

- 3-MONTH RULE: When you start liking someone, always give it at least three months. There is a good chance it is a crush.
 - › Hang out in groups. Observe them. Facebook/Insta stalk them.
 - › Girls, when a guy asks you out, tell them you will think and pray about it, then do your research! Ask around. Get references.
- If you miss it, no worries! God won't punish you for trying to do the right thing.
- "Oh, well I was about to get blessed by God with a husband but I waited too long to make sure it was from God."
- Enjoy your life; don't be sensitive about being single. You are not second class citizens. One time a group of singles asked for me to call them unmarried people and not single. That is sensitive!
 - › Single means 1. It's math. You don't call 1 "half of two."
- Paul was single

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:11&13

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CONTENT?

- › It doesn't mean pretending to be happy when you're not.
- › It's not saying, "I like everything the way it is," when you don't.
- › It's not saying, "I have no ambition, I have no dreams,"
- Contentment is saying, "I'm not waiting for the situation to change in order to be complete or happy."
NEH 8:10 "for the joy of the Lord is our strength."
- Joy versus happiness. The word "happiness" comes from the word "happenstance," whereas the word "joy" comes from the Lord.
- Question: Does this person hate to grieve the spirit of God?

THINGS ABOUT MEN FOR YOU LADIES

- Does he love Christ more than he loves himself?
 - › Does it grieve his heart to grieve the Spirit of God?
 - › The most important decision you'll ever make in life is the decision to give your life to Jesus Christ. The second most important decision you'll ever make in life is, "Will I marry? And, if I do, who will I marry?"

- › Don't marry someone on their accessories or trappings
- › Check out his routines: is he in the Word? What is he reading and praying about? Does he care about the hurting? Does he pray with people? Does he pray with you?
- › Don't say, "Well, he has a good heart." The Bible says the heart is deceitful about all else. Go by what he says and does.
- › What makes him laugh, what is his private life like? What is his reputation?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14

- The answer to all three of those questions is no.
 - › Don't date someone who doesn't know Jesus. How can you give your life to someone who rejects the very most important thing in your life?

READ PROVERBS 15:13

- Does he honor God with his money?
 - › Does he work hard, pay his bills, and have integrity? Does he tithe and give to God's work? Is he generous? Selfish and materialistic men don't make great husbands.

READ MATTHEW 7:21

- Does he have burst of anger?
 - › When he loses at something, is he teachable? Can he handle defeat? Does he pound the table, or does he make phone calls, when he needs to learn?
 - › Do your friends and family have a peace about him? If several friends are telling you to "run," listen to them! You can't change him, only Jesus can change character. You don't want a fixer-upper.
 - › Look for more than the blessing. Look for equal enthusiasm.

THINGS ABOUT WOMEN FOR YOU BROTHERS

- How does she get along with her family and past roommates?

READ PROV 31:31

- › Does she always gossip about others, ("I don't like that person for some reason"), or is she working on her soul, leaning into God?
- Does she draw attention to her body or to her Lord?
 - › Some people spend more time getting their face ready than their soul ready. Watch what she posts on Instagram. The Lord is into holiness more than fashion.

READ PROV 31:25 AND 1 TIMOTHY 2:9

WATCH HER WORDS AND COUNTENANCE WHEN UNDER STRESS

- When she doesn't get her way, does she yell? Does she cry?

READ 1 COR 13:4-8 AND PETER 3:3-4

- Some say "We'll get married and then they'll change."

- Q1.** Have you found contentment where you are in life right now? If so, share with others in your group how you regularly maintain contentment. If not, be willing to be transparent about what's going on that makes you feel that way.
- Q2.** Sometimes we're not content because of personal discipline areas where we feel like a failure or don't believe we measure up; other times it's because of external situations beyond our ability to change. Is there a discipline in your personal life that you're not content with in the moment? (Examples: ...prayer life, ...being in the Word, ...eating right, ...exercising consistently, ...do you feel encouraged by God when you spend time with God? etc.).
- Q3.** If you're single, how are you doing with singleness? What challenges are you facing?
- Q4.** If you're married, are you struggling in some way that you're willing to share with your group or with someone in your group?

PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH ANY NEED THAT HAS SURFACED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS