

# Family Discipleship

## Conversation Guide



## Singleness

In our society, singleness isn't seen as such a bad thing since it allows people to have romantic and sexual freedom. But being a celibate and chaste single is viewed as strange or even harmful in the world's eyes.

Within the church, singleness can be seen as a deficient Christian lifestyle. Sermons and church activities often focus on marriage and families. Well-meaning Christian friends try to "fix up" singles so they can "settle down" and get married. Marriage can become the goal of the Christian life. It's no surprise that singles can easily feel they don't quite fit into church culture.

The Bible makes it very clear that marriage is a good gift from God and that the relationship between husband and wife is a model of the relationship between Christ and the Church ([Ephesians 5:25-33](#)). But to elevate marriage too high is to idolize it. Idolizing marriage portrays it as the ultimate fulfillment instead of just the model of ultimate fulfillment, which is a relationship with Jesus.

In [1 Corinthians 7](#), Paul says that it is good for people to stay single (vs. 8, 26), noting that married people will face many troubles (vs. 29). The negatives of singleness are often compared to the positives of marriage. Marriage and singleness both have blessings and challenges. They are both gifts from God to be appreciated but not idolized.

*Discuss:* Would it be worse to be unhappily married or unhappily single?

Watch this video about how singleness can point to the Gospel: 

Single Christians may be young, widowed, same-sex attracted, or single for other reasons. Appreciating and welcoming singles can widen our outreach and enrich our ministry.

*Discuss:* What are some ways that single Christians can serve their church and others that would be difficult or impossible for someone with a spouse and children?

Parents, would you rather your son or daughter grow up to be a single Christian fully committed to the Lord, or a married adult with a wavering faith who provides you plenty of grandchildren? Explain to them why.

*Prayer:* Gracious Lord, the roles you've given us are blessings from you. Help us to appreciate these roles and use them to serve you and your Church well. Whatever our circumstances, help us to find contentment and fulfillment in our ultimate relationship with you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

*Links, videos, and quotes contained within this guide do not necessarily represent the teachings of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).*