

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Sex and Sexuality #3: “Is It Really Good News?”
And Sex and Sexuality #4: “Transgender”

Tips for Leaders (this week taken from pages 144-145 of *Dig Deeper!*, Beynon and Sach.)

Often when we come to prayer at the end of a Life Group meeting we can quickly move on from what we’ve been studying in the Bible together. While it’s true that nothing is too small to bring before our heavenly Father, it’s a shame when the tiny things – the health of someone’s neighbours’ dog – take over, and we forget the amazing truths that God has been speaking to us minutes before. Why not encourage you Life Group in prayers like: “Sorry for X, which your word has sown to be wrong in my life.”, “Thank you for Y, which you have shown us this evening.”, “Please, by your Spirit, give me power to change Z in response to what you have been saying.”

CONNECT UP: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

- Please read Matthew 19:3-12. What do you think Jesus means when he refers four times to *eunuchs*?
[Leaders note: This discussion is all about how we help single people in our church. If the people in your group are mostly married, they’re part of the answer. This first question therefore sets the scene – Jesus lived in a culture that despised single people as eunuchs, yet he came as a single person to show that single people can reflect the glory of God too.]
- In what ways do you think people look down on single people in our culture/at our church?
- What negative effects do you think this has on our church and on its witness to the world? *[Leaders note: Draw out some of the ways in which we all can idolise marriage: church members seeking to ‘fix’ their single brothers and sisters by matchmaking for them; single people feeling that their life is ‘on hold’ until they meet the perfect partner; people who are same-sex-attracted feeling that church is not for them, because the message that they hear is that Jesus+Marriage will satisfy you. Help people to recognise the problem without it becoming a complaining session.]*
- What do you think Jesus means in v10-12 when he commends Christian singleness to us?
- Please read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9&25-40. The Apostle Paul, who wrote half of the books in the New Testament, was single. Can you summarise his explanation of Jesus’s words in Matthew 19? *[Leaders note: You may wish to draw out the following – that singleness is good (v1 goes alongside Gen 2:18); that singleness is an opportunity rather than a curse; that singleness may actually be more desirable for many Christians; and that the ability to remain contentedly single is a spiritual gift from God (the Greek word in v7 is charisma).]*
- How do you think married people can help single people better within our church?
- How do you think single people can help married people to grow in their friendship with God?
- How do you think we can present the gospel more and more as good news to those who are exploring faith in our community who are 1) single 2) same-sex-attracted 3) married yet lonely?

CONNECT IN: discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- Move into a time of prayer, asking God to give you wisdom to serve one another and a city that largely doesn’t believe in him where, for the first time in history, the majority of people are unmarried.
- Pray the promises of Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7 over one another, that God would empower you to glorify him fully in your singleness and marriedness as a Life Group.
- Pray that God will use you to proclaim the good news of the gospel to your single and same-sex-attracted friends: life to the full, not through *Jesus+Marriage*, but through *Jesus+Nothing*.

CONNECT OUT: discuss the implications for your interactions with the world around you

- Make a list of some of your single and same-sex-attracted friends.
- Rather than simply praying for them, make some concrete plans for how you can invite them into the heart of your Life Group family between now and Christmas.