

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

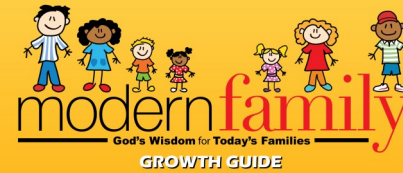
“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Handout: 10/14/18

Study: 10/21/18

Modern Family Singleness

People ask me why I'm not married. My simple answer -- it's not God's will. More than that, I look at my singleness as a gift. God gives various gifts, and some look more glamorous than others. Some we want to leave unopened. But we must embrace all God's gifts for us, including singleness. Singleness may not be one of the spiritual gifts listed by the apostle Paul in his letters, but he certainly treated his own singleness like one:

"Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am" (1 Corinthians 7:8, New International Version).

With Paul as an example, we can say yes to the gift of singleness because, as God's Word teaches, every good and perfect gift comes from Him. We must yield ourselves to God. We can be honest with Him about anything, especially our emotions about singleness. After all, Jesus was single. And He sympathizes with our weaknesses; He was tempted just like us (Hebrews 4:15).

Many years ago I thought I had met my Prince Charming. I remember telling God all my reasons why this man absolutely had to be the one for me. I sensed God's reply: But Nancy, how much more would it glorify Me if I teach you how to live with an unfulfilled desire? I did not want to hear that. But through my tears I said, "Father, I want Your will more than mine. Take away anything that's not Your will for me." Not only did God take that relationship away, but He's also taken away others.

Satan tries to make us think we need a certain person other than Jesus to make us happy, but no person can take the place of Jesus. God meets our intimacy needs in many ways, not just through marriage. And when God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness" (Jeremiah 31:3), "lovingkindness" literally means "loyalty." I often think about how God wants me all for Himself, how He's so jealous for my love that He doesn't want anything, not even a spouse, to take His place.

Jim Elliot, the missionary martyr, once said, "Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God." For singles, that means making the most of our singleness. Singleness holds advantages the body of Christ has often overlooked.

While you're single, you have more freedom for undistracted devotion to the Lord, freedom from many earthly concerns, and sharper focus on the things of the Lord.

This is especially important in light of the increasing speed of the spiritual harvest around the world. God needs more servants who can go at the drop of a hat wherever He says, without constraints. Only when we're wise stewards of our lives do we fully understand the greatness of God's gift of singleness.

Source: "Say 'Yes' To Being Single" by Nancy Wilson

KEY VERSE

Philippians 4:11

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content .” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Philippians 4:11-13

Introduction

1. How would you rate your level of contentment with your current situation in life?
2. How can you practice contentment in your life?
3. What are some issues facing singles?

Tuesday: I Corinthians 7:25-31; Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust God With Your Situation

4. Our culture often treats singleness as something to be cured, but in what ways does the Bible say it is better to be single?
5. Why do we sometimes not trust God with our lives? In what ways is God trustworthy?

Wednesday: Jeremiah 31:3; Revelation 17:7; Revelation 19:7

Develop A Relationship With God

6. How is God’s love more satisfying than the love of people?
7. What can you do to have a deeper relationship with God?

Thursday: Psalm 68:6; Mark 3:33-35; Proverbs 18:24

Develop A Relationship With God’s People

8. If you are single, how do you develop friendships with people in our church who are married?
9. If you are married, what are some ways that you can invite single people to be part of your family?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Galatians 5:13

Maximize Opportunities To Serve

10. What are some advantages that single people have when it comes to serving the Lord?
11. How can God use your life situation to serve Him?