



Share | Study | Serve | Support

## SHARE (15-20 MINS)

**Open in Prayer** (Leader pray or pick someone who is comfortable praying)

*On this second LG meeting, if you had some people absent last week it may be a good idea to repeat some of the basic LG Covenant “ground rules”. We will provide this statement again...Share something like this with your group – “Just a couple of tips that make for a healthier LG (Confidentiality; Participate (If you’re quiet... please stretch yourself; If you’re talkative, please don’t dominate); Commit (make LG a priority); Prepare (listen to sermon, look at questions); Respectful of others, opinions, etc; Hopefully Others can help me Facilitate; Other Homes? Food plan? etc. Let’s get started...”*

1. If you are following the *One Story that Leads to Jesus* Bible Reading Plan, how is it going for you? Anything you want to share?
2. If you are married, what was one (or some) of the bigger adjustments in your transition from singleness to marriage? With all respect and love for your spouse, is there anything you particularly miss about being single? *Be sensitive :-)*

## STUDY (ABOUT 30-45 MINS)

3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-9; 32-40. What are your thoughts on these scriptures or the weekend sermon?

*One important truth to remember as you begin this discussion on singleness and marriage is that it appears that in heaven there will be no more marriage as we know it (according to what Jesus said in Mark 12:25). All believers in heaven collectively will become the Bride of Jesus!! (Rev 19:7-9)*

4. In what ways has this chapter challenged your pre-existing views about marriage and singleness? How does this passage alter what you might say to your single friends or unmarried children about their future?

*God may be calling some of our young people and single adult to a life of singleness, or a longer season of singleness before they eventually get married*

5. In the church, have you seen singleness marginalized or marriage idolized? If so, what could we do to change this?  
*Unfortunately, sometimes the mentality is that if you’re single you haven’t really “arrived” yet, or are somehow “incomplete”. Single people need to be intentionally included as equal partners and co-laborers in the bigger family of God’s church.*
6. Paul says in verse 7 that both marriage and singleness are gifts from God. What are some of the advantages of marriage, and some of the advantages of singleness?

*Marriage: partnership, procreation, companionship, excellent spiritual growth opportunities through constant and normal “relational friction”...putting spouses needs before your own, etc. Singleness carries its own difficulties - potential loneliness, sexual temptation, etc.*

*Singleness: greater freedom and flexibility in your schedule to serve the Lord, along with the potential pursuit of many other opportunities since you’re not committed to a spouse. Spared from the “troubles” of marriage (7:28). Life is less complicated.*

## STUDY CONTINUED

7. How would you encourage a single person to find emotional fulfillment and intimacy outside of sex & marriage?

*Pursue relationships with many others (other singles along with appropriate relationships with married people). Utilize God's forever family, the church, for companionship and relationships. Pour into the "younger" in the church by serving/mentoring them as a "spiritual parent or big bro/sis" (either those younger in age or younger in the faith).*

8. Read **Matthew 6:31-34**. What are some of the things in your life that you feel may divide your devotion from the Lord and cause anxiety? (1 Cor 7:32-35) What can you do to be undivided?

*Busyness, Family needs/expectations (physically, emotionally, mentally, etc), along with all the worries of the world, can make us divided. One thing we can do is protect our family schedule from being a slave to the culture's expectations. Love the church, and serve together with your spouse and/or family so your ministry doesn't always pull you away from your family. Try not to compartmentalize your life but see your marriage and family as a God given tool for spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry.*

9. How can we pray for one another to be fully devoted to the Lord, regardless of our marital status?

## SUPPORT OPTIONAL SMALL GROUP TIME

*We recommend that you break up into men/women groups for deeper discussion and prayer. Possibly discuss #9.*

## SERVING LEADERSHIP TIP

### Five Brief LG Facilitation Tips:

1. **Don't do all the talking.** The best leaders facilitate conversations rather than giving out information. They strive to facilitate the conversation and keep it moving from member to member rather than talking to the members.
2. **Decide to be comfortable with silence.** Embrace the 10 seconds of silence which seem to be like an eternity. Remind the group that in silence, we have an opportunity to hear the Holy Spirit.
3. **Be a good listener.** Try to *actively* listen. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak..." Great leaders listen with their eyes, ears, and heart.
4. **Remind the group why it exists.** *Following Jesus Together! Connecting people with Jesus, His Word and with one another, where significant Christian relationships can be developed.* Keep that purpose at the forefront of every Life Group meeting.
5. **Involve everyone.** Sometimes the people who are most quiet are the wisest. When there is a pause and you notice someone hasn't shared you could ask: "Steve, what are your thoughts on this question?"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pregnancy Care Center Baby Bottle Drive

- Return your baby bottle to your campus by Feb 4. Thank you for supporting this awesome ministry!

### Mexico Trip 2024 Parent Meeting

- Does your student want to be on the Mexico 2024 Trip? • Then we NEED YOU to be at this meeting!
- Sun, Jan 28 @ 6pm, Downtown Auditorium

### 2nd-5th Grade Kids Winter Camp - Feb 23-24

- Join us for a weekend of learning about our amazing God! • Games, worship, & activities
- Register now @ [rivervalleycc.org/events](http://rivervalleycc.org/events)

### Middle School Winter Camp 2024

- Registration is open NOW! • Sign-up by Feb 3 for the early bird special
- Learn more @ [rivervalleycc.org/events](http://rivervalleycc.org/events)

**Women's Potluck Breakfast Gathering** • RR Campus (4<sup>th</sup> Sat of every month), 9:30-11am, Jan 27

**Sunny Valley Monthly Potluck** • Last Sunday of every month @ 11am