



Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | October 2, 2022

Begin with prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week in this series, use the **Prayer of Humility** below to help center your time together on God. To do so, send the prayer out to your group (via text, email, GroupMe, etc.) so everyone has access to it. Then, give your group a few moments to pray in silence and respond to the prompts.

“Lord, I ask that You would prepare my heart for our meeting today.”

“Help me to see each member as You see them.”

*Recall the name and face of each individual in the group.
Ask for God’s help to see each one for who they are, without judgment.*

“Help me to hear each member in truth.”

*As you think of each individual, ask God for the ability to listen intently.
Acknowledge any personal struggles or personality conflicts with others.
Talk these struggles or conflicts over with God.
Ask for a way to listen without hindrance.*

“Help me to respond in love.”

*Affirm your desire for God to guide the meeting.
Admit your limitations to fix the problems and struggles of others.
Acknowledge your inability to fully understand any one person’s story.
Ask God to draw each member closer to His love through the meeting.*

Once you’ve finished praying, as the host, pray aloud for your group time.



Break into gendered groups, read Scripture, and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- Assess the posture you found yourself in as you received Sunday's message on singleness. Did you sense openness in yourself, or were you closed-off? Explain.
- What messages have you heard about singleness (from the church or from culture)? Are they generally positive or negative? Explain.
- Do you think our culture resists singleness? If so, why? If not, explain.
- Do *you* resist singleness? If so, why? If not, explain.
- **Now take some time to read 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 25-40.** What does Paul say in this passage about singleness? What from these verses do you find challenging? Explain.
- Describe a time of singleness in your life. What words would you use to describe that time? Would you (or do you) describe that time as a gift? Explain.
- In his sermon, Dan described singleness as: good, impactful, unique, and challenging. Which of these do you agree with the most? Which of these do you disagree with the most? Explain.
- What would need to happen for you to begin to see singleness as good, impactful, and unique?
- Consider the life of Jesus and Paul. What were the benefits of their singleness? If single, how do their lives challenge you? If married, how do their lives challenge you?
- Getting a bit more practical now, what would it look like to become family to single people? If single, what would it look like to join with a family in our church?
- What's a practical step that your group can take to embrace togetherness as a group (whether single or not)?
- What are some of the normal practices or rhythms that your family engages in that you often take for granted? How can your family invite people who are single into those rhythms?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.



- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.