

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

## **CONNECT Group study questions, selected Scriptures**

### **Title: Celebrating Singleness**

**Question:** Does the Bible say that it is okay to be single?

—Myth #1: Marriage is the only God-ordained lifestyle.

1 Corinthians 7:7-8 — *I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.*

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 — *I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.*

—Myth #2: The grass is greener on the other side of the matrimonial fence.

—Myth #3: My life + somebody else = happiness.

Philippians 4:11-13 — *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

—Myth #4: Singleness produces loneliness, while marriage produces intimacy. Hebrews 13:5 — *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

**Question:** What does the Bible have to say about dating? We know dating was not part of the culture in biblical times when marriages were arranged by the parents of the boy and girl. **Facilitator:** You might ask for thoughts about dating versus arranged marriage.

**Question:** Is it okay to date or marry a non-Christian?

2 Corinthians 6:14 — *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

**Question:** What about missionary dating? Missionary dating is dating to win the non-believing date to Christ. Share your thoughts about the positives and negatives of missionary dating.

**Question:** What’s wrong with pre-marital sex with someone you love?

1 Thessalonians 4:3 — *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.*

**Facilitator:** Immorality includes fornication (sex before marriage), adultery (sex while married to another), homosexuality, bestiality.

**Question:** What can I do right now as a single person to make a difference for God?

- Start living out your Christianity right now.
- Use your singleness as a time to serve.