

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 25-35

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite activity at the pumpkin farm?

Ice Breaker: Share an example of a single person who has made a gospel impact in you or your family..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the context of 1 Corinthians? What kinds of things does Paul talk about in this book?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9:** Who is this passage written to? What are some things that stand out to you in this passage about singleness?
3. What was or is your experience of singleness?
 1. If you are married now, how was your singleness encouraged or discouraged before marriage? What do you remember about the encouragement to get married?
 2. If you are single, how is your current experience at Castleton as a single? Do you feel supported or encouraged in your singleness? How have people talked about marriage with you? (Be honest!)
4. How can singleness be "good" for the church family? How does singleness show the gospel in unique ways to our church body?
5. How can we honor the singles in our church in a way that encourages them to continue to pursue the Lord in their unique way? What ways can you personally do this?
6. What ways can we unintentionally discourage singleness and make singleness seem "less" than "married"? Why is it important to be careful with our words about singleness and marriage?
7. If you are single, what does it look like to have intentional devotion to the Lord? What are some ways you are maybe already doing this as the Lord allows?
8. If you are married, how might you, even now, prepare yourself if the Lord takes your spouse home and you remain in this life as a widow? What kinds of things would you want to give yourself to? How has the Lord gifted you or positioned you now to make a gospel impact in the future?

Application: Pray (by name) for the single members of our church. Pray that they would not be discouraged by the counter-cultural position that they are in but rather see it as a gift from the Lord.