

## Group Check-In

### Noticing Spiritual Growth

Remind of one of the group's purposes which is to *notice each other's growth* in Christ.

Ask for any insights (or struggles) in being a Christ-follower this past week.

Pray for the group for understanding and power to follow Christ in our world.

# Discussion Questions

## Companion / Helper

Read Genesis 2:18 together.

- Why was it “not good” that the man was alone? What does that say about our design (“blueprint”) as humans?
  - Our internet-soaked culture (among other things) can enable us to isolate from one another. How are *you* when it comes to being alone versus being together? Does your life reflect this “not good” nature that Genesis 2:18 declares?
- The word “helper” is the Hebrew word “ezer” which is also used in Psalm 121:1-2. Read those verses and then discuss what this might mean for a wife to be the helper for her husband.
- Can anyone share a good example of *helping* in marriage that they’ve seen / experienced?

## Mission

Pastor Jonathan mentioned that a shared *mission* is an important part of a healthy marriage. What did he mean by this?

- Why are some common goals (such as home, education, career, children, etc) not enough to sustain a marriage through a lifetime?
  - Using similar logic, why is marriage itself not good enough as a goal for life? (See Matthew 22:29-30)

## Marriage vs Singleness

Read 1 Cor 7:32-35.

- What aspects of being *married* contribute to a person’s ability to serve the kingdom of God?
  - If you are married, how have you been taking advantage of this? How can you develop this further?
- What aspects of being *unmarried* contribute to a person’s ability to serve the kingdom of God?
  - If you are unmarried, how have you been taking advantage of this? How can you develop this further?

## **Marriage & The Gospel**

Ephesians 5:22-33 relates the roles of husband and wife to the roles of Jesus and the church. It compares marriage to the gospel itself!

- How do the elements of marriage we've been discussing compare to our connection with God?
  - Relationship ("not being alone")
  - Oneness / Unity
  - Help
  - Covenantal love
- How can the example of Christ and the church speak into how we treat each other in marriage?

## **Dependence Upon God**

In order for our lives to be the way God designed them, God needs to be in them! We need God's grace, forgiveness of our sin, power from his Spirit—in other words, dependence upon him—in order to make this happen!

- How can you depend upon God in order to strengthen your marriage / your singleness?
- How can you encourage/help others to depend upon God in order to strengthen their married / single life?