

## CONNECTION

- How have you been encouraged by this Together sermon series so far?

## OPENING PRAYER

## SCRIPTURE

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Matthew 19:1-12

## CONVERSATIONS

- The world has two views of marriage (NOTHING or EVERYTHING). Which of these views do you feel is more common in your circles?
- Abbie Smith writes *“Singles idolize marriage and treat it as the ultimate goal. Then they get married and search for the idolized marriage they so long idolized”*.
  - What are the dangers of idolizing marriage...
    - ...for a single person?
    - ...for a newly married person?
  - Do you think that most churches today generally have a healthy, biblical view of singleness? Why or why not?
- Read Matthew 19:1 - 12. What does Jesus mean when he says, “...there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven...”?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:32 - 35. What are the benefits of being single?
- If singleness is a “gift” (even if it’s an unwanted gift), why do you think God would give it?
- Barry Danylak writes that *“the New Testament does not give us any explicit mandate to marry and procreate physical human beings, but the new mandate is to create more **spiritual human beings**”*
  - What could it look like for someone to BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY - even if they were not married or did not have children?

- How can we as a community “invite the lonely into families” and create a culture where both single and married people can experience familial community?
  - Is there someone specific you need to reach out to or connect with?

**EXTRA RESOURCES (to share in your group):**

- Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life (**Barry Danylak**)
- Celibate Sex (**Abbie Smith**)
- @pieterlvalk (**Instagram | Vocational Singleness**)
- Tim Keller [Theology of Singleness](#)

**RIDGE CHURCH REMINDERS:**

- Bible in One Year | Join us! (Daily links on website)
- KIDS NIGHT OUT | Friday Jan 27, 2023

**PRAYER:**

- PRAY that each one of us , whether single or married, would look to Jesus for fulfillment
- PRAY that God would strengthen marriages.
- PRAY that those who are single would find connection and community as they serve.
- PRAY for the nominating committee as they discern who God would have them approach with a view to serving on the Board.
- PRAY that those attending the Hello Lunch on Sunday would feel welcomed and make lasting connections.