

# **Life-Sharing Bible Study Series**

**“Love Is The Answer”**

***Come Be A Part Of A Small Group***

**Glenville New Life Community Church  
And  
Calvary Presbyterian Church**

**Life-Sharing Lesson 1—“What Are The Dating Rules” Proverbs 4:20-24, 2  
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**Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “What Happened In My Marriage” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 1  
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**Life-Sharing Lesson 3 “Can Divorce Ever Be The Answer” Exodus 21:10-11,  
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**Life-Sharing Lesson 4 “Choosing To Be Single” 1 Corinthians 7:1-9, 32-35**

## Life-Sharing Lesson 1—“What Are The Dating Rules” Proverbs 4:20-24, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 1 Samuel 16:6-7

1. What do you think is the purpose of dating?
2. In the bible marriages were often arranged? What are the pros and cons of this position?

**Proverbs 4:20-24** Today's New International Version (TNIV) <sup>20</sup> My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. <sup>21</sup> Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; <sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. <sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

3. What do we mean when we say go out on a date? How do you guard your heart on a date?

### **2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

#### ***Warning Against Idolatry***

<sup>14</sup> Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial<sup>[a]</sup>? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>17</sup> Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch

no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”<sup>[c]</sup> 18 And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”<sup>[d]</sup>

4. Under what circumstances if any could a believer date a non believer?

5. How should one decide if they are ready to date?

6. What are some realistic guidelines a person should have prior to dating?

7. How important is it to have others you trust know that you are beginning to get serious about someone?

8. What is the difference between having chemistry together and having a commitment to each other?

### **1 Samuel 16:6-7 Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things human beings look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

9. How big of a role should how the other person looks play in the choice of a date?

10. Should every date be seen as a potential mate or should you just go out and have a good time?

11. What is the role of sexual activity in dating for Christians? Should couples test drive each other sexually?

12. Should dating stress more of a desire for purity or a desire for how far can I go without sinning. What's the difference in the heart of the person.

**Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “What Happened In My Marriage” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 1  
Corinthians 7:26-28, 32-35**

1. What do you admire about couples who have been married for many years and are still glad they married each other?

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Today's New International Version (TNIV) <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails**

2. Which 3 of the above definitions of love do you think need to be stressed more at the beginning of a marriage?

**1 Corinthians 7:26-28 Today's New International Version (TNIV) <sup>26</sup> Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup> Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. <sup>28</sup> But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.**

3. What type of problems do the bible predict that married couples will have?

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Today's New International Version (TNIV) <sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her**

**husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.**

4. Someone said, if you want to serve Jesus, then stay single. But if you want to become like Jesus, then get married. What do you think the person was trying to say with this statement?
  
5. Why is living together not the same thing as being married?
  
6. Why is it important in marriage to know that men and women do not think alike?
  
7. What are some unrealistic expectations people have of marriage itself?
  
8. What are some of the boundaries a married couple has to set when it comes to their families and friends?
  
9. What are some of the boundaries a married couple has to set when it comes to their own children?
  
10. What are the benefits of being part of a marriage support group like “Marriage Sensation”.

11. What is probably the greatest threat to the success of any marriage?

12. What suggestions would you give to couples who want to continually improve their marriage?

**Life-Sharing Lesson 3 “Can Divorce Ever Be The Answer” Exodus 21:10-11,  
Deuteronomy 24:1, Matthew 19:1-10 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

1. How was your life impacted by someone getting a divorce?

**Exodus 21:10-11 Today's New International Version (TNIV)<sup>10</sup> If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. <sup>11</sup> If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money.**

**Deuteronomy 24 <sup>1</sup> If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house,**

2. What do you think were the biblical reasons for getting a divorce in the Old Testament?

**Matthew 19:1-10 Today's New International Version (TNIV) Matthew 19**

***Divorce<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. <sup>2</sup> Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. <sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” <sup>4</sup> “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh<sup>[b]</sup>’? <sup>6</sup> So they***



***are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”***

***<sup>7</sup> “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.<sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”<sup>10</sup> The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”***

3. Why did God allow for divorce?

4. Why is it that two people living for Christ would seek a divorce?

**1 Corinthians 7:10-16 Today's New International Version (TNIV) <sup>10</sup> To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.**

**<sup>12</sup> To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.**

**<sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know,**

**wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?**

5. What is to be the consequences for two people who are both serving the Lord if they separate from each other?
  
6. What do you say to the person who comes to tell you, “I found out my spouse has committed adultery and I want out of this marriage?”
  
7. What do you think the passage means when it says if an unbeliever leaves, the person is free to marry someone else?
  
8. What would you tell a person who is in an abusive situation if the person told you, “I’m believing that God is going to save my spouse?”
  
9. Why do you think Christian couples in the church are so reluctant to participate in Marriage Sensation?
  
10. Do you think our society adequately prepares people for the reality of marriage? Why or Why not?

11. Why do people think they will automatically know how to build a good marriage?

12. What advice would you give to someone who says, “I think I married the wrong person. I know God does not want me to be unhappy. I want a divorce.”

13. What’s the best way to help your friends who are thinking about getting divorce?

## Life-Sharing Lesson 4 “Choosing To Be Single” 1 Corinthians 7:1-9, 32-35

1. Who is a single person who has had a powerful impact on your life and why?
2. Name three people in the bible who were single and used by God?
3. Why has there been such a pressure to get married in our society, especially for women?
4. What are some of the advantages of being single in life?

### 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

<sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

5. What are some of the advantages of being single as a Christian?

**1 Corinthians 7:1-9 Today's New International Version (TNIV) 1 Corinthians 7**

***<sup>1</sup> Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."<sup>2</sup> But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. <sup>3</sup> The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup> I say this as a concession, not as a command. <sup>7</sup> I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. <sup>8</sup> Now to the unmarried<sup>[a]</sup> and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. <sup>9</sup> But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.***

6. What does Paul mean by calling being single a gift?

7. Why do you think the bible says for singles to either get married to control their sexual desires or avoid getting all worked up with desires in the first place?

8. If a person does not want to be single, what do you say to them if they say, "why won't God give me a spouse?"

9. If your son or daughter tells you, "I'm not going to have kids and I don't want to get married, because I'm giving my life to Christ," what should your response be.

10. How can the church be more inclusive of singles?

11. How can singles enrich the life of the church?

12. How do people in the church put unnecessary pressure on singles without thinking about it?