



**WHO SAYS I DON'T HAVE A LIFE?**

## **UPLOAD:** LARGE GROUP TEACHING GUIDE

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE: Swipe Right - Week One: Who Says I Don't Have a Life?

PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Whether we are alone or in a relationship, help us to devote ourselves to you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

**LOG  
IN**

The teenage years are a time filled with changes and transitions. Moving from elementary school to middle school, and then to high school. Contemplating college, or trade school, or moving into the workforce in the future. Growth spurts, acne, and hormones working overtime.

Relationships can be particularly difficult. Many of you will start dating during your teen years. You have questions. How do I make a relationship work? What kind of guy or girl should I be looking for? How long should I wait until taking the relationship further? Am I a loser if I'm a junior and still single? What does it mean to honor God in my relationship? Is that even possible?

Over the next few weeks, we're going to attempt to tackle some of those questions. We're going to start by addressing the subject of singleness. Being single can be hard; especially when everywhere you look, it seems like every other teenager is pairing up into couples – at school, in the youth group, definitely on TV shows and movies. Is there anyway to be single and for it not to be a total disappointment.

**BOOK  
MARK**

Paul was a Christian missionary. He traveled all over the known world at the time and told people about Jesus. He started churches in many different cities all over. Even after he moved on to other cities, Paul wrote letters to the churches he had started. Those letters make up a big portion of the New Testament we have today. Paul devoted himself to Jesus.

Another thing about this great man of the Christian faith: He was single. We often look at singleness as a burden. But Paul saw singleness as a great blessing, and more desirable than getting married. He even encouraged others to remain single. Let's read a portion of his first letter to the Corinthians to find out why.

**LESSON 1: WHO SAYS I DON'T HAVE A LIFE? (PAGE 2 OF 2)**

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## READ IT

1 Corinthians 7:25-38

Why does Paul think that being single is the bigger blessing? Because it allows him to serve God with his whole heart. A married woman or man is still able to serve God – definitely – but they have more concerns in this life to distract them. Making your spouse happy, raising kids, etc can pull you away from the things of God.

You might be thinking, “Whoa! Who said anything about marriage or kids? I just want to start dating.” Paul’s words still apply to you. In our culture, having sex has become a very casual thing. But in Paul’s time, the cultural norm was for people to wait until marriage to have sex. And that remains God’s standard for sex.

## POST

Paul understood that some of the people reading his letters were only getting married because they could no longer control themselves. They were rushing into marriage because of the physical rewards. Paul is not telling us to not get married. In fact, he makes it clear in verses 27 and 28 that if we have made a commitment to a relationship, we should honor that commitment. However, Paul tells us that if we can stay single and still remain pure, that is the more desirable way. It gives us the opportunity to devote ourselves to God. Single people can serve God in ways that couples cannot. It also gives time to learn from God and understand what he wants for us. Then, if we do decide to be in a relationship later on, you will know the kind of partner that God wants you to have. Someone else who is committed to Him.

If you are currently in a relationship, take some time to examine that relationship. Are you with someone who truly cares about you – your life, your opinions, your dreams? Does the other person have a relationship with Jesus? Do you serve Jesus together? Is that something you are both interested in developing? Do the physical aspects of your relationship violate God’s standards? If your relationship examination doesn’t stand up to the test, perhaps it’s time to choose singleness for a while.

If you are single, take a moment to let it sink in that singleness is a blessing and not a curse. Avoid the temptation to envy the couples you see. Instead, ask God to show you how you can serve him in your singleness. Pray that God would use this time to grow you into a person who will make a better boyfriend or girlfriend when the time to date comes around.

## TAG

Whatever your relationship status, honor and serve God. Every moment we are given is an opportunity to obey God, to serve Him, and to praise Him.

### CLOSING PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Our relationship status may change over time, but the one that matters most is the status of our relationship with you. Help us to devote ourselves to you.*

*In Jesus’ name, Amen*