

# **Singleness and the Church**

## **Session 2 - God's Goodness**

**Will I miss out if I obey God? - Tim Keller**

### ***Psalm 81:10***

*Do I believe the lie that I will miss out as a single? Can I believe the promise that God himself will fill me?*

### ***John 10:10-15***

*What is life to the full?*

*What does it mean to be known by Jesus?*

*Who is it who gives life to the full?*

*Where does the thief try to steal that life, from me, today?*

### **In Groups**

***Can we define where we might feel empty?***

***How do we expect God to be our help?***

## **Being single is primarily a positive calling from God - Wes Hill**

Singleness is not just about saying 'no'

### **The gift of being single**

*(Matthew 19:11 and 1 Corinthians 7:7)*

When God gives us a gift it is always for the benefit of others

Gift = Opportunity to serve others

Marriage and Singleness are equal but different gifts

Equal but different opportunities to serve others

Equal but different opportunities to reflect the love of God

*"It is important to grasp that single Christians who abstain from sex outside the marriage bond bear witness to the faithful nature of God's love with the same authority as those who have sex inside the marriage bond. Both paint pictures of God's faithfulness, but in different ways. Denying yourself something can be just as potent a picture of a thing's goodness as helping yourself to it." (Harrison)*

## **All Together**

***In what ways can being single feel like 'a mutilation'?***

***In what ways can being single be a positive calling/gift?***

## **Joy in being single**

*"We cannot always affect or alter the situations around us and the circumstances in which we find ourselves. But we can make a choice about what our response to those circumstances will be. We can choose joy, a fruit of the Spirit, and allow it to grow, bloom, and blossom in our lives.*

*Joy isn't affected by the particular and specific events that are taking place in our lives at any one time. Joy is a state of mind and heart, a stage of being. Joy doesn't come from what is happening in the world around us, but from somewhere deep inside. It isn't affected by the ups and downs of life because it is built on something firmer and stronger than that. It is true, in a strange but ultimately very real and comforting way, to say that as Christians we are able to be joyful when life is hard as well as when it is good, when things are not going well as well as when they are, when we are unhappy as well as when we are happy.*

*Amy Carmichael put it like this: 'Joy is not gush. Joy is not mere jolliness. Joy is perfect acquiescence - acceptance, rest - in God's will, whatever comes. And that is so, only for the soul who delights in God.'*

*The joy that we have as Christians is built on the foundation of our faith in God and all that we know about him. We know that he created us. We know that he loves us. We know that he sent Jesus to earth to live among us, and to die in our place, and to rise again so that we might be forgiven. We know that he listens to us when we talk to him. We know that he is interested in every part of our lives. We know that if we give our lives to him and follow him we will one day live with him forever. And so we can be filled with joy no matter what life throws at us and no matter how tough things get." Kate Wharton*

## **In Groups**

***What will it look like for you to respond joyfully in your unique circumstances?***

***What positive opportunities to bless others is God giving you in this current season of life?***

***What are you going to take away from this evening?***