

## Life Groups Resource Sheet

# Understanding Singles in Christian Community

### Bible

"...to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." *John 1:12-13 (NIV)*

### Details

As Life Group leaders, the opportunity exists for us to be family to those without family. Inviting and including single people in our groups is a powerful way of affirming and supporting them as well as deepening and enriching our whole community.

Understanding singles begins with recognising the various needs and contributions they bring to Christian community. Every person is unique in their personality, circumstances, life stage and gifts. With that in mind, it's important to avoid assumptions and ask open questions, such as, "What are the situations that you find most difficult?" and "How can I best support you?"

Leaders ought to be mindful of their own bias – for example, those who have a family or are a couple are likely to filter discussion and decisions through that lens. This applies to deciding on timing, location and format of events and activities, right through to the types of illustrations or examples used when presenting content.

Language matters. Be aware of your choice of words and avoid language that overlooks singles in the group. For example, "In consideration of those with young kids it might be good for us to finish early" as opposed to, "we all have young kids so we should finish early." Or, "We've all seen how this works in the close relationships we each have with family, spouse or friends" rather than, "We've all seen how this works in our marriages."

Encouraging people to travel together to events (rather than arriving alone), and/or being intentional about how a single person is greeted and drawn into the gathering can dramatically affect their experience.

### Next Steps

Discuss ways you can welcome and include singles in your Life Group.

#### Resources

'Talking Singleness' sermon  
[crossway.org.au/gospel-at-home](https://www.crossway.org.au/gospel-at-home)

'What We Cannot Be Alone: Understanding Singleness in God's Family'  
book by Kimberly Smith, available from [kimberlysmith.org](https://www.kimberlysmith.org)

#### Acknowledgment

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