

1. The epidemic of loneliness

- a) Human beings were created for community—interaction, love, fellowship. Genesis 2:18a
- b) How is it possible to be lonely in a crowd?
- c) What is the solution to the epidemic of loneliness? Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (What is the threefold cord?)
- d) How does an openness to a relationship with God meet our need for meaningful companionship? Matthew 18:20; John 14:15–18, 23; Philippians 4:11–13
- e) Share a time when you struggled with loneliness
- f) How can we be part of God’s solution to the epidemic of loneliness?

2. The unmarried life

- a) What are some benefits Paul mentions for remaining unmarried? 1 Corinthians 7:25–34
- b) Name some other Bible characters who chose to remain unmarried. Jeremiah (Jer. 16:1–4), Jesus, etc.
- c) Many single individuals are happier than those who are married. Why?

3. When a marriage ends in divorce

- a) What Bible story illustrates the possibility of reconciliation when one spouse is unfaithful? Hosea 3:1–3

- b) What is necessary in order for such reconciliation to occur?
- c) What Bible texts confirm infidelity and divorce are not part of God’s ideal for human families? Proverbs 5:15–20; Malachi 2:13–16; Matthew 5:31–32; Matthew 19:3–10
- d) Unfortunately, there are times when marriage relationships are irreparably shattered. What are some practical and compassionate ways you can help someone going through a divorce?

4. Alone again when a loved one dies

- a) How can a person prepare for the death of a loved one? 2 Samuel 18:32–33; Matthew 11:28–29
- b) Why is grieving the loss of a loved one different for those who have accepted the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus? 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 21:4–5
- c) Share your experience with the death of a loved one.

5. Spiritually single

- a) What response does the apostle Paul recommend when a person is married but has no spiritual support from a spouse? 1 Corinthians 7:10–16
- b) How can a church family support someone who lacks spiritual support at home?

