

NOTES



PRAYER

Loving God, thank you that I was created to be in relationship with others, even though at times I may not be as present as I could be with the people I hold dear. In all my relationships I ask for your love to shine through me.

In all my interactions may your wisdom guide my words and every decision that I make.

Jesus, may your selfless example always be before me and be mirrored in my heart and in my relationship with others.

Amen.

Karen Ravenscroft Wheeler, Chaplain NSW/ACT, Mission Australia

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Who is your favourite television or movie couple and why?



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WORD

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

[Matthew 19:3-12](#)

"Before we begin dating, we have to develop a vision for what makes marriage worth having. Why do we even want to be married in the first place?...Marriage is worth having because you get God in your lifelong commitment to one another. Marriage is about knowing God, worshiping God, depending on God, displaying God, and being made like God....What makes marriage worth having is that you, your spouse, and those around you see more of God and his love in Jesus."

"Life is short. You and everyone around you will live, on average, a little more than seventy years. That will feel like less than a bathroom break compared with the eternity ahead of us. Everything in the world is teaching you to stretch out every moment as long as possible, to soak up every last drop from your time here on earth. But you weren't made for this, and you won't be here long. We have to stop believing the lie that everything we have here is all we have, and start thinking of everything we have here as something to invest in what's to come. If the whole world passed away today, would we love what's left? We develop those spiritual muscles now by saying, with everything we have and do now, that Jesus is our greatest treasure. Life is short, and everything we have and see here is passing away. Everything but Jesus."

[MARSHALL SEGAL - Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness & Dating.](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate how fulfilled you are with the deep friendships and relationships you have? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Consider your closest relationship (if you are married or engaged your spouse/fiancee. If you are single, your closest friend.). Is this friendship the epitome of God's design for relationships based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13 (living in peace, held in highest regard/priority, always building up, encouraging.)? Why/Why Not?
3. How might you "reject every kind of evil" and "pray continually"(vs 17 and 20) in your relationships/dating/engagement/marriage?
4. Are you in a relationship (dating or marriage)? If you are, how fulfilled are you in your relationship right now? If you are single, how fulfilled are you in your singleness?
5. Do you choose today to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.