

**Berean Christian Church Henry
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Focus on the Family Conference

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“Single or Married: Individuals, Insight and Ingredients About Them Both”

I. Details about Single and Married People

Listed below is vital insight regarding being single and married.

Single Details

1. One can be single because of _____ .

Ruth 1:3

“Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.” (NIV)

2. One can be single because of _____ .

Ruth 3:9-11

“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.” 10) “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. 11) And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.” (NIV)

3. One can be single because of _____ .

Matthew 19:11, 12

“But Jesus said, “Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life. It requires a certain aptitude and grace. Marriage isn’t for everyone. Some, from birth seemingly, never give marriage a thought. Others never get asked—or accepted. And some decide not to get married for kingdom reasons. But if you’re capable of growing into the largeness of marriage, do it.” (MSG)

4. One can be single because of _____ .

Jeremiah 16:1, 2

“Then the word of the LORD came to me: 2) “You must not marry and have sons or daughters in this place.” (NIV)

5. One can be single because of _____ .

Matthew 1:18, 19

“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19) Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” (NIV)

Marital Details

1. Spouses can grow closer together through _____ .

Genesis 25:20, 21

“When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean. 21) Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The LORD answered Isaac’s prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.” (NLT)

2. Spouses can grow closer together through _____ .

Deuteronomy 24:5

“A newly married man must not be drafted into the army or be given any other official responsibilities. He must be free to spend one year at home, bringing happiness to the wife he has married.” (NLT)

3. Spouses can grow closer together through _____ .

I Samuel 1:19

“Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.” (NIV)

4. Spouses can grow closer together through _____ .

Luke 1:5, 6

“When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. 6) Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations.” (NLT)

5. Spouses can grow closer together through _____ .

Ephesians 5:21

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” (KJV)

II. Descriptions of Single and Married People

Listed below are portraits of men and women in the Bible who were either unwed or espoused.

Single Portraits

1. Rebekah can be called the _____ single.

Genesis 24:16-20

“Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. 17) Running over to her, the servant said, “Please give me a little drink of water from your jug.” 18) “Yes, my lord,” she answered, “have a drink.” And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. 19) When she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink.” 20) So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.” (NLT)

2. Ruth can be called the _____ single.

Ruth 1:16, 17; 2:2

“But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17) Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us! 2:2) One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.” Naomi replied, “All right, my daughter, go ahead.” (NLT)

3. John the Baptist can be called the _____ single.

Matthew 3:4

“John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.” (NLT)

4. Paul can be called the _____ single.

I Corinthians 7:26, 27

“Because of the present crisis, I think it is best to remain as you are. 27) If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married.” (NLT)

5. Jesus can be called the _____ single.

Philippians 2:5-10

“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6) Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7) Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8) he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. 9) Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” (NLT)

Marital Portraits

1. Abraham and Sarah can be called the _____ couple.

Genesis 12:1, 5

“The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. 5) He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan.” (NLT)

2. Jacob and Leah/Rachel can be called the _____ couple.

Genesis 31:12-16

“The angel said, ‘Look up, and you will see that only the streaked, speckled, and spotted males are mating with the females of your flock. For I have seen how Laban has treated you. 13) I am the God who appeared to you at Bethel, the place where you anointed the pillar of stone and made your vow to me. Now get ready and leave this country and return to the land of your birth.’” 14) Rachel and Leah responded, “That’s fine with us! We won’t inherit any of our father’s wealth anyway. 15) He has reduced our rights to those of foreign women. And after he sold us, he wasted the money you paid him for us. 16) All the wealth God has given you from our father legally belongs to us and our children. So go ahead and do whatever God has told you.” (NLT)

3. Manoah and Mrs. Manoah can be called the _____ couple.

Judges 13:3, 6-8

“The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah’s wife and said, “Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. 6) The woman ran and told her husband, “A man of God appeared to me! He looked like one of God’s angels, terrifying to see. I didn’t ask where he was from, and he didn’t tell me his name. 7) But he told me, ‘You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. For your son will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the moment of his birth until the day of his death.’” 8) Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, saying, “Lord, please let the man of God come back to us again and give us more instructions about this son who is to be born.” (NLT)

4. Xerxes and Esther can be called the _____ couple.

Esther 7:1-6, 9, 10

“So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther’s banquet. 2) On this second occasion, while they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “Tell me what you want, Queen Esther. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!” 3) Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared. 4) For my people and I have been sold to those who would kill, slaughter, and annihilate us. If we had merely been sold as slaves, I could remain quiet, for that would be too trivial a matter to warrant disturbing the king.” 5) “Who would do such a thing?” King Xerxes demanded. “Who would be so presumptuous as to touch you?” 6) Esther replied, “This wicked Haman is our adversary and our enemy.” Haman grew pale with fright before the king and queen. 9) Then Harbona, one of the king’s eunuchs, said, “Haman has set up a sharpened pole that stands seventy-five feet tall in his own courtyard. He intended to use it to impale

Mordecai, the man who saved the king from assassination.” “Then impale Haman on it!” the king ordered. 10) So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.” (NLT)

5. Aquila and Priscilla can be called the _____ couple.

Acts 18:24-26

“Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. 25) He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John’s baptism. 26) When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.” (NLT)

III. Decisions by Single and Married People

Using the word SPICE, please come up with an acronym (one word per letter) or an acrostic (one phrase or sentence per letter) of things you can do to add zest to your life/marriage.

Acronym Example for T.E.A.M.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

Acrostic Example for T.E.A.M.

Teaching Fundamentals
Evaluating Players
Achieving Results
Motivating Others

Single People

S

P

I

C

E
