

NOTE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

Thank you to everyone for this amazing ministry year! This is the last set of questions/notes until September. I'll be preparing for the ministry season in September with some new initiatives. In the meantime, check out my **video announcements** for the summer: https://youtu.be/i_SvpNAMrs8. I'll be making more videos to share some encouragement and ideas for groups. Please send me videos and photos of what y'all are doing. I'll include them in my videos so everyone can be encouraged by what's going on. I've also included a snippet of Pastor Jono and Pastor Richard's Life Group at the end of my video. I think everything is perfectly self-explanatory without additional context.

Movie Night Fundraiser. We're raising money on **July 3** for our Japan, France, and Germany mission teams heading out in July. It's a \$5 ticket for a bag of popcorn, a seat to watch Ratatouille, and a chance to meet our teams. Sign up by July 1: <https://willingdon.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2997418>.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Pick and adapt any that will help your group discuss the sermon.)

Check out the Questions with Notes and Commentary to dig deeper: <https://willingdon.org/lifegroups/leaders-corner/>

Let's Warm Up: Questions to break the ice.

1. Did you have more or less freedom in your life 5 or 10 years ago? What changed?
2. What are some examples of equally good options that you struggle with in your day-to-day? (E.g., menu options, clothing choices, ways to relax)

Let's Get Started: Questions to start thinking about the main themes.

3. What are some ways people see their time on earth (e.g., hedonism, utilitarianism, nihilism, Gospel)?
4. What kinds of responsibilities or freedoms are associated with singleness and marriage?
5. What responsibilities does someone take on when they become married?

Let's Dig In: Questions to discuss the passage and how we can respond.

6. How do we "live as though" (marriage, mourning, rejoicing, buying/selling/business) with an eternal perspective?
7. Pastor Brody said, "Dear single person: be on mission for Jesus with the time you have. Don't miss the opportunity to show Christ to the people around you. He mobilized and met needs, went where God led him, and ministered in unexpected ways and places. Like him, you are available and able to go. Single, you have been gifted a unique mission from God." If you're single, what's the unique mission God is giving you?
8. Pastor Brody said, "Dear married person: be on mission for Jesus with the time you have. Don't miss the opportunity to show Christ to the spouse you have, as he loved his church and met our needs, ministering to us in unexpected ways and places. Don't miss the opportunity to demonstrate holiness to the children you may have, or at least to the world around you as you love and sacrifice for your spouse, your family. Married, you have been gifted a unique mission from God." If you're married, what's the unique mission God is giving you?
9. Pastor Brody said, "Whatever you choose, to say I do or I don't, be confident in your decision. God does not micromanage your life. If you're waiting for God to drop the perfect spouse in your path, you'll be waiting a long

time – the only perfect spouse is Jesus returning for his people. However, whether you marry or not, you can actively pursue Jesus and become more like your Saviour as you bring the gospel wherever you go and are transformed by it along the way. My girlfriend is better loved when I am more like Jesus.” How does pursuing Jesus give us confidence in our decision to be single or get married?

10. How can we give people space as they consider whether to marry or not?
11. Pastor Brody said, “We do not “flirt to convert”. If you’re not a Christian but you’re dating or interested in a Christian, ask yourself what your relationship will look like down the road. What will you compromise by being with them? Where do you see gaps between your worldviews, or values you’re ignoring, whether theirs or yours? Being unequally joined will lead to strife, maybe bitterness, and certainly challenges in your relationship.” What are some dangers of being in a relationship with a non-believer?