Zeal is manifested in various ways in every church. You have the individual who is excited about evangelism. Another one is the expert on church policies and regulations. The prophecy guru is zealous over historical dates, while the children's ministry gang competes with the Vacation Bible School special forces team. Theological auditors sit in the back pew with their bifocals while the conspiracy theorists have their own unique enthusiasm. From audio-visual techies to prayer warriors, the church is a home to all types, shapes, and sizes of zeal.

Then there is the Auntie (or sometimes Uncle). She is zealous about getting every single person in the church married off. Whether she works off a database or her memory, she is a human android that can come up with creative combinations and statistical compatibility rates. We may snicker, but the zeal of this ministry is important. Perhaps you have benefited from their ministry.

What may lie behind this zeal, however, is the idea that singles are incomplete and that communities must do everything they can to eliminate them. The first chapters of Genesis are often quoted supporting the notion that it is bad for individuals to be alone. While it is true that married individuals have benefits and advantages, the rewards and pluses of singlehood must not go unnoticed. Afterall, the Son of God Himself was a single. Though this quarter addresses the topic of sexuality, this week will look at various passages throughout Scripture that touch on the gift of singleness and its juxtaposition to the other gift that God has given.
Write out Isaiah 56:3–8 from the Bible translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/-phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/-phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse from Isaiah 56:3–8. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Why might some people consider marriage as a prerequisite for righteousness?

Why might some people consider singleness as a prerequisite for righteousness?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex03-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do people treat the kingdom of God merely the means for sexuality, marriage, and family relationships? Why is this wrong?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex03-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Matthew 19:11, 12
1 Corinthians 7:1–16
1 Corinthians 7:25–40
Genesis 2:18
Matthew 21:12–17
Mark 3:31–35

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with being single?

Review your memorized verse from Isaiah 56:3–8.
Where do you see Jesus in Isaiah 56:3-8?

How has Jesus been a model of single-minded focus in your life?

What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex03-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of Isaiah 56:3–8, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What applications can be made in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex03-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why do people opt to be single?

What are some selfish reasons for remaining single?

How can singles be sexually pure?

How can singles be sexually pure?

How are singles complete in ways that married couples are not?

What are some examples of "eunuchs" in the categories that Christ listed?

How can you be a blessing to the single people in your community, church, and/or local area?

If a single, how have you experienced God “without distraction” and pleased Him in the “things” of God?

How can sexual temptations be sublimated into avenues for ministry?

How can singles “bear” non-biological children in the faith?