

## CHAPTER 2 – “LOVING BEYOND THE NORM” [9:52 – 14:51]

1. Do you think the percentage of single adults in your church reflects the figure of 45% of all adults 18 and older being single in society? Why or why not?
2. Do adults in the Church “label” single adults? How and why is this done?
3. How have you grown through your singlehood?
4. How has the definition of the “normal family” changed in the last 25 years?
5. As a never-married or formerly-married adult, do you ever feel left out by married friends who used to invite you to activities, but for some reason do not now? How does this make you feel, and what can be done to change this?
6. The statement is made, “The closer I come to Christ as a single adult, I’m finding out me is OK.” Where are you in your journey of discovering this?
7. Do you feel safe being yourself and/or sharing past mistakes with fellow church members? Why or why not?



### DIRECTOR’S TAKE

Jesus made a radical statement in Matthew 12:46–50. Some people told Him that His mother and brothers were waiting outside to speak with Him. He asked: “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” He then points at His disciples and declares them as His mother and brothers. Finally, Jesus clarifies that anyone who obeys God is counted as His mother, sister or brother. The Jewish culture placed huge importance on genetic blood lines because God’s promised Deliverer would come this way (Genesis 3:15). But here Jesus re-frames the importance of the earthly family in the context of His new Kingdom family. Because of the blood of Christ, single adults should feel most “at home” in the Church. Sadly, this is not often the case. This short segment illustrates some of the ways the Church is being challenged to embrace a broader family in biblically-relevant ways. We simply can’t understand how “unsafe” church can feel until we’ve been broken ourselves. Why? Because it’s hard to admit you don’t “have it all together” where everyone else is singing “Onward Christian Soldiers.”