

The Single Life: Struggles, Joy, Shame, and a lot of Opportunities

Not being married at the age of 30 or 40 is not the way of life most Christians expect for themselves. In this workshop we will talk frankly, and with a clear view to the gospel, about what it is like to still be single. We will discuss both sides of this phase of life: the hard and very unhappy ones as well as the lovely and beneficial ones. How can we have an open heart and mind to take times of grief *and* times of great joy always in the perspective that God wants us to have? How do we accept the fullness of life he gave us – no matter in which relationship status we find ourselves?

Tina Tschage has worked as a pastoral assistant in a church planting project in Frankfurt, Germany and as an editorial journalist and presenter at several German television stations. She is now a freelancer, speaking at various ceremonies, counselling people, holding workshops for different audiences, and writing articles and books. Accompanying people through milestones of their lives and sharing Christ's glory are what she loves most. Tina has a master's degree in biblical and theological studies, and she lives in the Christian community SegensReich in Munich, Germany.

I. Introduction

A. What does "single" mean?

1. Classical Single
2. Single Again
3. Single Parents

B. Challenges for Singles

C. Challenges with Singles

II. God's Promise: Life to the Fullest (John 10:10)

III. "Grinches" (robbers and thieves) in Singleness

A. We are waiting

B. We compare ourselves to others

C. We are doubting

IV. How to fight these Grinches

A. Live your life

B. Share your life

C. Trust your father in heaven

V. Next step

Suggested Readings:

English:

Al Hsu, *The Single Issue* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1997).

Lina AbuJamra, *THRIVE* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2013).

German:

Astrid Eichler, *Es muss was Anderes geben. Lebensperspektiven für Singles* (Witten: SCM R.Brockhaus, 2006).

Tina Tschage, *EINZELSTÜCK: Solo leben. Und zwar glücklich* (Holzgerlingen: SCM Hänssler, 2015).