

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 7

If not mentioned specifically in the previous question, what ways have you been able to serve the Lord as a single woman? Or how would you like to (through your gifts, talents, and experiences)?

All Answers (various church contexts)

As a single woman without children, while I have extended family ties and other responsibilities, the priority of my time is not required by a husband and/or children. Therefore, I can dedicate my time however is needed. I have had the privilege of moving to another country to live and serve. I have lived with families to better learn my second language and culture, I have spent countless hours sitting in the homes of others building relationship, because I don't have to be home for family. I was also able to bring into my own home several single women and children who needed homes for a time, and I was able to dedicate a lot of time to those others within my home. I was able to travel around the country when asked. Not that married people can't and don't do these same things, I just had extra time and resources to put toward kingdom relationships outside my home. I also have the privilege and excitement of seeing God provide for me in special ways, because I don't have the help and support of a husband or children.

Helped plan single events, taught some Bible classes. Mostly help with emotional support for other single women.

Well, community matters to my understanding of the Body of Christ, so I teach primarily from a place of mentoring, writing, loving day to day refugee families in my neighborhood. I have some times had a vague sense that I was being asked to not be in a public ministry because I am a woman. Well, it wasn't vague. The former pastor simply said, teaching publicly was not their practice. I understood

spiritual authority matters, so I taught privately and grew to live those teachings and disciple outside the walls of the church, though I still attended church for many years.

Missions, teaching bible study, community work with the addicted, incarcerated, battered, and abused. I would like to do more of this via large church-supported programs. Thus far the initiatives are small. But the needs are great.

I love sharing my testimony about being reunited with my son. I gave him up for adoption and God brought him back in my life after 35 years. It was a closed and sealed adoption. I never saw him or held him until we met Nov. 5, 2016 only 2 months prior to my husband's passing. God is so good and so faithful!

I have been able to serve through child care, teaching music, bible classes, food service, hospitality, benevolence. I have been a part of organizing many outreach events. I have also been able to be a part of organizing showers and other special events. My life is full! :)

I would like to help other teen moms through they emotionally struggle. It was the most difficult thing I have had to go through. My family basically turned their back on me and I had to turn to my boyfriend. I want girls to know they are strong and can handle things without depending on anyone but the Lord.

Women's ministry leadership. Healing Hands International assistance. Teaching Bible class.

I help in children's classes, help fill the communion trays, help set up, organize, clean up with different children and youth activities, contribute pantry items, take meals to those that need them.

I would love to do more! Currently involved in calendar committees through my church but trying to find more opportunities that would either allow me to be with my son or timing that works where he is in school.

I feel like God used me as a connector of people. He's also often used me with troubled young women and even men. I've been able to stop some people from suicide which has happened kind of supernaturally and not in a weird way.

The best way I find to explain it is that I do whatever is needed. Sunday school, cleaning the building, organizing retreat for singles, Bible camp, ladies retreat, youth weekends, game nights, movie nights, painting the walls, outreach to cancer patients by making and donating heart pillows and soap. These are the ones I can think of from the top of my head.

Being single has allowed me an interesting perspective on relationships and I've able to use that perspective to help my friends through weird situations and different relationships, which has been really cool. Also being single has caused me to be independent and allowed me to serve and love others spontaneously and boldly because of it.

Definitely was able to devote more time & energy to my kids being single. I have been able to do serious Bible study as well and am now leading other women in studying the Bible for themselves.

Since retirement I have dedicated most of my time to doing work for the church, taking on ministries, doing works, looking for opportunities to serve.

I'd love to have more opportunities to preach and teach in my new church. Since I just joined in June, it will take some time to become trusted there and be able to serve in other ways. For now, I'm content to do the occasional scripture reading or prayer on Sunday morning, fill-in teaching for my Sunday school class, and helping in several service ministries.

I work full-time in a ministry-related job. Because I don't have a husband, kids, or other obligations at home, I'm able to throw everything into serving the kids and families at work. I usually work 80-100+ hours a week, and it allows me to meet the needs of kids and their families who have experienced exceptionally high levels of exposure to potentially traumatic events, and meet them where they're at with what they need. I simply couldn't do it without being single. "The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord...."

I have taught Bible classes from Cradle Roll through Jr. High. I have led singing at Ladies' Days. I have organized Parents' Nights Out. I have served on committees and in the nursery.

My church's young professional group occasionally goes on mission trips and service projects. These are good works but I always feel that I need to find something else to serve God in. I struggle to find ways to serve except in child care.

This has been a tough one for me. I know I can always teach children's Bible classes or a ladies' class, but that's not where my gifts and talents are. I haven't served much because I don't feel comfortable doing it alone.

I learned how to find my voice and reach out to other ladies who needed a word of encouragement or to speak up in class when there are generalities being stated as fact. I have found quite often that there are other ladies in the class who needed to feel like someone understood and by my speaking up they didn't feel so disconnected.

In lots of different way. My husband never stopped me from doing anything but I am more free to not have to consider his reaction. I sew, help with a women's class, serve individual women, etc. There's enough that I am busy enough to be fulfilled.

I have been able to concentrate more on God since my divorce. When I was married my concentration seemed to always be on my husband. I have served by helping other children in the neighborhood who were from divorced families. Sometimes they might need a ride somewhere like the local recreation center or some of them just needed to someone to talk to because of problems at home and others just like having a place to come at times to hang out with my son and eat a snack. I would like to be able to make a difference somewhere in life for someone but I am not sure where that it right now.

I just take it one day at a time and try to help whoever comes in my path and do what I can as a single mom/woman.

I was able to serve the Lord through helping out the church and singing in the choir.

As a single woman, I have been able to put more time into volunteering and serving God. Relationships take a lot of time so if I were trying to juggle being in pharmacy school and having a boyfriend, I could see God and the opportunities He has given me taking a back burner. In the future, I really hope to be involved in medical missions. This is definitely an area where being single is incredibly helpful. As a single woman, I would be able to go to a third world country for months on end since I wouldn't have anything tying me to any particular place.

I currently am a "stand-in" college ministress at my church. Our college group is small and has no leader/minister, so I have taken it upon myself to lead the group. No males have stepped forward to lead, and I felt as if God was pushing me to that position for the time being. So this is how I feel I have been able to serve God the most recently.