

# Religious Studies Topic of the Month

## May 2023

### How are changing attitudes toward relationships and families reflected in religion?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article and factsheet, which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



### Disclaimer:

This topic relates to an article, written by Harriet Sherwood for The Guardian\* entitled "Jesus was single and single people should be valued, says Church of England". The article is supported by a passage taken from 1 Corinthians 7.

### Introduction

This article refers to a two-year commission examining relationships and families, ordered by the archbishops of Canterbury and York.

**Link to article:** <https://bit.ly/44wlaKD>

**Link to 1 Corinthians 7:** <https://bit.ly/3NEYqmO>

### Discussion prompts

- Why might Jesus have chosen to be single?
- The idea of family has changed in modern times. What impact might this have on the Church?
- Could the Church's offer of relationship support to those entering into marriage, be extended to people in different relationship types? What issues might this present?
- The report 'love matters', referred to in the article, discusses the premise that the Church may not 'honour' single people. After reading 1 Corinthians 7, to what extent do you agree?
- To what extent does society as a whole 'honour' those who are single? What messages might popular television shows which focus on 'dating', send to single people?

### Links to topics on the syllabus:

- Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st century
- Christian ethics
- Sexual ethics
- Equality
- Key moral principles