

# Singles That Don’t Fit in Traditional Sunday School Classes

This past year as I have traveled I have a conversation of more than one time in regards to what do you do with singles who are not ready for a singles small group or Sunday school class. What about people who are separated, hurting, in counseling, or divorced (but still struggling), etc. What do you do with those who you know aren't ready for your ministry but at the same time, they don't' fit in traditional small groups or Sunday school classes.

A couple of years ago I worked with a church in Abilene, TX. They had singles small groups/classes to fit all ages. They also had a "transitions" class. What's a transitions class you ask? It's a class to help people in transition, those not ready for a regular class.

**Types of people in a transition class:**

1. Separated: We always want to encourage separated people to get back with their spouses. Sometimes putting them in with singles can actually discourage this. This is also a time they could attend a divorce recovery ministry class. A transitions class will help them make the new life change.

2. Divorced: Those that are newly divorced are still sometimes not ready to be with other singles. Divorce recovery doesn't happen with one 12-week course but in some cases years. Again, people need time to find out what went wrong with their marriages, to heal, reconcile, etc. A transition class will help them as everyone in the class is in transition of some kind.

3. Grieving: When you have a loss in your life you might not be quite ready to hang with a large group or attend events. A transitions class allows more time to heal and adjust.

4. New to area: When we are new to the church/area, we sometimes don't know what class we want to be in. A transition class allows them to get to know people in the church while visiting other classes to see where they fit in best.

5. Life changes: Any life change can be dramatic—from a job change to parent moving in, etc. Sometimes people just need time to find out where they need to be.

**Guidelines:**

1. Decide whether it’s going to be singles or marrieds or mixed (male/female).

2. Keep the group small.

3. Encourage them to be visiting other classes so they can eventually leave.

4. Make a decision of how long they can stay, 6 months, 1 year, etc. again, the point is a transition not to stay.

5. Offer support in what area of life they need help in.

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The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy but I have come to give life to its fullest. John 10:10