



## Age Breakdown for Singles Ministry

For the last several years we have seen a huge growth in older singles ministry (40+) due to churches offering DivorceCare, Single Parent Ministry, Griefshare and Celebrate Recovery. At the same time we were seeing younger singles diminish. As a result, churches started offering “young adult” services in an effort to reach the college and post-college age-group. But what has happened during these changes is the disappearance of the median-aged single. That 30-45 ish person who doesn't live with their parents, has purchased their own home and has never been married. This particular age group has the most flexibility of their time and money but is its still the least reached and last used in the Church.

So what do you do? One solution that I offered a church in Salem, OR was to use their 40+ singles outreach as a gateway for median-age singles. To find a couple of leaders (male/female) to lead them. When their outreach breaks into small group discussions, have the median-age singles sit together, allowing time to connect. Use this small group as spring board to form a new ministry (but still using the larger group as gateway) geared towards median-aged singles.

Another ideas is to simply ask a few in their early 40's or late 20's to form a new small group or Sunday school class with the hope of it growing, spending some extra time with them so that it will grow.

### SAMPLE

*I found this age breakout of singles Sunday school classes from Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC.*

**College (18-24 in college)** As the majority of our college students live out of town, this ministry takes place when most of our students are home. Mark and Mary Rice are the primary teachers for this SS class which meets ongoing during the summer, holidays, and spring and fall break times.

**Career (20's out of college), in graduate school or in the midst of your career and trying to find a place to plug in here at Snyder?** If you desire to find authentic fellowship and dig deep into the Word of God in a relevant and challenging way, then this may be the place for you! Join us in this young adult which also includes many young single military. Email Josh Grimes w.joshuagrimes@gmail.com for more information.

**The Journey (20-30's)** is the Sunday School group for young adults beginning their careers and making their place in the world. The class is the center of small group Bible studies, mission activities, picnics, retreats, etc.

**Mature Singles (40 +)** find companionship and purpose in group activities as well as Bible Study each.