

Discussion 8

Everything Creative

SINGLE ADULTS

NANCY HANSON: I'm Nancy Hanson. And this is "Everything Creative". This program explores a wide range of creative ideas, talents and experiences through interviews and group discussions. Join us today for a group discussion with single adult members of the Church.

Welcome back to "Everything Creative." I'm Nancy Hanson. And joining me today I have a panel of singles. Joining me today, this is kind-of interesting because I have never even met any of you. We just ran into the studio and here we go. So its, off the top, let's go ahead and go around the room. And why don't you introduce yourselves. Tell us, um, your name of course, where you're from, maybe- I know some of you are, have experienced life in singles wards in other states and even countries. Let us know maybe if you're comfortable, what your age is, and uh, we'll just get started with our discussion.

JAMES DALTON: I'm James Dalton from Portland Oregon. I'm 21 years old and just got back from my mission to New York and right now I'm currently a BYU student.

EMILY SNYDER: I'm Emily Snyder from Alpine, Utah and I'm 30, almost 31 and I've pretty much done single's wards in Utah. Salt Lake and Provo area.

JASON SMITH: Jason Smith from Montgomery, Alabama. I'm 34 years old and I've been in single's programs in Washington D.C., Alabama and Las Vegas.

NANCY HANSON: Wow! You've traveled around.

JASON SMITH: A little bit! I'm a ramblin' man.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Hi, I'm Brooke Holyoak and I'm from Houston Texas, and I live here in Salt Lake now. I've been in Single's wards in Houston, and then I when I went to school in San

Antonio also. So. And I'm 29.

NANCY HANSON: So am I. You laugh!

CIRO ABRIL: I'm Ciro Abril...from Bogota Columbia. I'm 32 years old and I've been here for about 5 years. So I was single in Columbia and then still single here.

NANCY HANSON: Okay, well it's so great to have you all with us today. Thank-you for being here and as you know, this show is about Creativity and so it seems maybe strange that we ask those of you who are single and have been in single's wards to come in and talk about creativity. But we just kind of want to think outside the box about what people normally think creativity is, and just ways that you actually use it everyday in your life- your God-given gift of being creative and how that applies to you as a single. And maybe particularly in, as your experience in single's wards.

I'm Nancy Hanson and I, I spent, I didn't get married until I was 31. Funny that I can be 29. So I spent several years in single's wards in different callings, and really really loved that time in my life, and look back on those- especially quiet sacrament meetings with fondness. It's a great time and a really fun time in life. So let's just start this discussion maybe with some ideas of, we'll make it easy, some of the- including creativity- some of the really creative activities that you guys have done or been a part of in the different single's wards that you have lived in, or single's activities that you've been involved in, that you felt like "wow, that was really, that was really good. That was something different, that made a difference and I kind-of felt like, that's kind-of what it's about." Any of those?

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, I'll jump in. It's Brooke. And um in Houston, it was actually stake level, but it included our Single's ward. We had a Jewish 'saider'? And we got together with the Jewish community or someone in the Jewish community to figure out what exactly a Jewish saider entailed. And had this big saider evening where we learned and had fun and we talked. And it was just a great way to kind-of learn about the similarities between that culture and our own and and know the differences and come together inter-faith. And it was a great success. And I think they do it, they've done it more than once, because it was so successful. So that was really fun, thinking outside the box of you know, normal, just getting together and just playing games.

JASON SMITH: What's a saider?

BROOKE HOLYOAK: It's a Jewish dinner. You know you ask me...It's been a few years since I've done it. Um, but it's a cultural event that the Jewish people do, and it teaches you about, yeah, passover and stuff.

NANCY HANSON: Rituals that are associated with that.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Right. Right.

NANCY HANSON: Cool. Yeah, yeah I love that, that it was something completely different that no one would know anything about. Great, anything else? Come on, there's been some great stuff.

CIRO ABRIL: Yeah, I'll jump in. Well, I'm a convert. When I joined the Church 19 years ago, they had a really nice activity- we don't have single's ward in Columbia, but we have the organization. So we meet often. But we had this really nice activity which is called, "Trip to Hawaii." And I don't know why. It doesn't have anything to do with Hawaii. But they made us come with our luggage like we were going on a trip and everyone was very confused at the beginning. But then they gave us like fake money and everything. And they set up the stake center, like you have different rooms to do different activities. Like you can go dancing and you can go to church and you can go reading and different activities. And the well outcome is, it's to help us as singles to understand that our choices, the choices that we make in this life is gonna take us to different places in life. Because at the end we ended in one of the three different worlds. Like, well I was in the Telestial. I love dancing. But, so they have telestial, terrestrial, and Celestial. And it was very neat because I was a new member. I was single also. They gave you a person of the opposite sex to be with you the whole time. It was very interesting how different experiences would take you different places.

NANCY HANSON: Wow, what a great idea. So when did you join the Church? How old were you?

CIRO ABRIL: In 1999. I was 24.

NANCY HANSON: And so you, so how many stakes, so how did they work that out? How many members would be together in a single's group, and did it take in, I'm sure a really big area.

CIRO ABRIL: Yeah, well it depends. The city that I was living in, we were just like 20 singles, which is like, 1 district, it wasn't even a stake. But then I've lived in other cities, in Bogota, especially, the capitol, we have like a few stakes. And I don't know right now. I haven't been there for five years. But I would guess like approximately, 150 active singles.

NANCY HANSON: Members that would come. And didn't you look forward, and love that time when you could be altogether with people of your same faith? I would imagine that would be just something you would look forward to and want to be a part of.

CIRO ABRIL: Yeah, it was really nice. Because I came from a single's ward and so I have friends, and I had to, not really leave all my friends, but change a lot of my friends and get to see people who have the same goals and the same things that you want, and just want to help you to be better. And it was great.

NANCY HANSON: That's good. That would be important to a new convert at that age, to be able to say, here are some people that are the same age that you are and this is, you know, some kind of activities that we do that are fun and clean and good, and we believe the same things you do. That's cool. That's great. Anyone else?

EMILY SNYDER: Mine are more of the traditional ones. Um, a ward up here in Salt Lake, we had one, our bishop had done a lot of dating goals for us, and, ya know, you had to meet like 3 new people. Or, he had just a list of different things. And people that actually accomplished those goals, he had a big night where they had dinner and then we had date ideas on the different tables for each center piece. And then people got to take those center pieces home and then go do that date activity. So it was fun things like 'reading books at the hospital to the children' or 'feeding the ducks'. I mean, just really low-key things from the dollar store that people could do as date ideas. And then another one, we had a date auction and it was hysterical. It was so funny, because people just got together and created a date idea and then auctioned it off. And it was so fun to just watch people that wouldn't typically interact together and making the baskets, and then those that actually bought the baskets, to just have that date. And just interacting with each other that isn't just stereotypical. And that you don't go with your same friends and end up with your same friends all the time.

NANCY HANSON: So the basket would be, who would put that together? They'd come up with a date idea...a couple? Or...?

EMILY SNYDER: No, just like 2 girls or A girl, or a group of girls. And then a group of guys would buy it.

Ya know, kind-of like on the movie "Oklahoma" where she has the lunch basket. And then they buy the lunch basket. So you don't really know, you had a picture on the basket of who you were, who made the basket.

NANCY HANSON: Oh, and then you would go on that date with whoever.

EMILY SNYDER: Yes. Yes. Yes. So we had a four-wheeling one, and so we went on the date with the guys that bought the basket.

NANCY HANSON: Oh I get that. Cool.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: How did they buy the baskets?

EMILY SNYDER: With real money. And...

BROOKE HOLYOAK: With real money! Oh my gosh!

JASON SMITH: Where did the money go?

EMILY SNYDER: Ya know, to something amazing, I'm sure. Some great charity, mission fund. I don't know.

NANCY HANSON: The Single's ward dating fund.

EMILY SNYDER: Exactly. And I love it because so often I go to activities with my friends, talk to my friends, and leave with my friends. And so something that is different than any social gathering that I could just plan. If it's gonna be done with the Church involved, then often times I think then that's the Church's responsibility and the Church organization, to figure out a way to get us out of our comfort zones.

NANCY HANSON: To mingle and to,

EMILY SNYDER: Exactly, to be in situations that we wouldn't typically find ourselves in. So that one I loved, because that happened.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, that's great. I love that idea. Anything else?

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Ya know, going along with the dating thing, I think we can all relate. There's some dating things that happen in singles' wards that we've been in, especially after the Elder Oaks' talks, um, twice over that we got from that. We had an activity where it was a speed dating event, but it wasn't typical speed dating where you're in a room and you're at a bunch of tables and it's one by one. It was actually, the entire church building was set up, each room with a different date, with a different theme. And the weirdest one I remember was a science room where you could go in and do different science experiments for like 5 minutes and then you leave and you go pick up another date, but you had to, we had to pair off and plan and prepare. And so on the big meeting room they had a list of the different dates and the guy had to go up and choose which one he was going to take. Then he had to ask a girl in the room and then prepare on how he was going to get there and what he was going to do. So that was really cool, kind-of. It was really silly and everyone laughed the whole way through, but it was again, one where we could leave with different people and get to know different people because it was every five, six minutes that you were with someone else. So.

NANCY HANSON: Well maybe we can go from here to even creative dating ideas. And maybe our men in the group will speak up a little bit about this.

EMILY SNYDER: No pressure. No pressure, guys.

NANCY HANSON: Well certainly there is some pressure, right?

JASON SMITH: Sure. A little responsibility there. My, growing up where I did in Alabama, the concept of the creative date was kind-of a new thing when I moved out here. Ya know, you're supposed to ask a girl out with 99 balloons in her room or something. My attempts at being creative and elaborate have been train wrecks for the most part. But I do remember one time we went on a group date and we decided to go salsa dancing to a salsa club. And I'm on the radio, so you can't see it, but I'm as white as they come. I glow in the dark. And I've got the stereotypical dancing abilities. And so it was kind-of an interesting experience to go down there and go to this club. And it was a salsa club, ya

know, a Latin club. And a bunch of white kids walk in there. And the interesting thing was that none of us knew what we were doing. And it was a little embarrassing. And the fact that neither of us knew what we were doing and it was a learning experience, it kind-of leveled the playing field so all of a sudden we were on even ground. We were able to talk and get to know each other. And then another nice thing about salsa clubs, I don't know if anyone's ever been to one. It's not like a normal club where everyone's out there breaking commandments on the dance floor. It's kind-of a date type activity. Well, it was couples. And

BROOKE HOLYOAK: And they'll teach you right?

JASON SMITH: That's what surprised me...is that some people saw us and kind of felt sorry for us, one couple, and they came over to us and the woman took me, and the man took my date, and they taught us for like half an hour and it was one of the funnest things I've ever done. And you know...

NANCY HANSON: That's great. Ciro you would've liked that, right? That would've been right up your alley?

CIRO ABRIL: That's what I was just thinking...Salsa is unity....(laughs)...I love salsa. So we can go.

JASON SMITH: I'm in.

CIRO ABRIL: Ok.

NANCY HANSON: Great idea. Any other creative dating? I guess even the girls, if you've been on those dates where you're like, 'wow' that was creative.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Ya know, I have to say that I'm not really into like the creative dates. I'm pretty much a traditionalist where I just like good conversation. And I like dates that lend to that- to the good conversation. So just, a lunch date and just going out to dinner and talking over dinner. And then that's that. And then you can decide beyond, if there's more to it. Then you can find okay, between the two of us, what can we do that's gonna be a ton of fun and be creative in that way. So...

NANCY HANSON: Right. I guess it is kind-of High School to come up with some themed date or something.

EMILY SNYDER: Well and I think the creativity can be much like the simplicity. I went on a date with a guy that we went dinner but then we went to Barnes and Noble and played a game. And bizarre? Totally fun. Totally fun. yeah.

JAMES DALTON: One that I did recently with my roommates was...is we went up to the Oqhirrh Mountain open house and went out to dinner afterwards and we were all dressed up and everything and we had time to talk. And it was a really cheap date and not very expensive and it was fun and we got to have time to talk to everyone.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Way to be spiritual on your date.

NANCY HANSON: I know. Gold stars on that one.

CIRO ABRIL: He just did get back from his mission.

JASON SMITH: Score points here.

NANCY HANSON: Start it off on a really good foot.

JASON SMITH: I take 'em shooting.

NANCY HANSON: Really?

JASON SMITH: Yeah, I was a little surprised. Girls tend to like to go shooting. And it's a simple date, nothing fancy about it. No frills.

NANCY HANSON: Clay pigeons?

JASON SMITH: Yeah, we don't shoot Bambi. Clay pigeons, bottles, and things like that.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: I've actually done that. It was fun. And I, you can't see me and people don't know me out there but the few people that do, know that Brooke and shooting do not get along. So for me to say that was fun? Right on.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, so I think even if it isn't some big planned, creative theme typed thing it's probably fun though to go with somebody who's like, "Hey- do you want to try this? Do you want to do that?" instead of "Let's just go to a movie and dinner every time." Especially if it's someone you were dating more than once. Ya know, it's nice to maybe step it up and act like you've thought about something that you wanted to do with this person when you see them again. So I guess creativity does come into play when you're talking about dating. How about, let's talk about family home evening. I know in the Single's wards here, well I guess it's everywhere, you get together for Family Home Evening, right? Monday nights. And you're separated into groups. Is it a structured, usually a structured thing? Like is there a lesson or is it usually an activity? How does that go? Or is it always different?

JASON SMITH: I've seen a little bit of both. Yeah. At the end of the day, I think everybody goes to meet somebody. So.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, let's get real about it. Why do you go to Family Home Evening?

JASON SMITH: It's a single's ward! Of course!

NANCY HANSON: Except when I was towards the end of my Single's Ward career, there were always about 50 women and maybe two men at those events. But it was still fun! We would go to just, ya know, hang out and be with each other. It was fun. So what if, if you can think about a Family Home Evening activity, is there anything- I guess that kind-of falls under the same category as just single's ward activities. Anything maybe service oriented that you could share with us that you remember doing in a service type of way?

EMILY SNYDER: Can I share things that I want to see happen?

NANCY HANSON: Absolutely.

EMILY SNYDER: For FHE's, I had a roommate that was the FHE grandma or whatever, over the whole ward. And she would get on me all the time, because I really didn't enjoy going to FHE's. Because I never could quite figure out what the point, of it was. And she would say, "Well it's to get into a habit." And I'm like, "Okay, well that's not what my FHE's are going to be like when I have a family. So that's not the right habit. I don't want to practice something that isn't going to be like what I actually want it to be." And so one day if I ever get to be the grandma of a ward or FHE mom or something, I would love to actually practice the things that we want done in a family home evening. I would love to have us all make our own little felt storyboard or funny storyboard things...Jason loves that idea.

JASON SMITH: I do.

EMILY SNYDER: Well good. Yeah. Because I think there's so many things that; one benefit I find in getting to be older and single is that there's more times to discover me spiritually. And I want to make sure that happens in my family. And what better place to do that than in FHE. But I want to be prepared for that when that happens. And I think what better arena than a single's ward FHE to actually put into place those principles. I remember one time I was asked to give a lesson at FHE and I felt so stupid - because I actually wanted it to be a real lesson. And I felt like I was totally doing the wrong thing, and that wasn't like- like I really just wanted to have a lesson about the Book of Mormon or something and

NANCY HANSON: And that's not how it was done.

EMILY SNYDER: Totally. And it was more of a free-for-all funzy, get over it, and let's just eat our treats and talk.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, I think that's important for FHE - for it to have a purpose. Because that's what you want eventually with your own family, is for your children to come together and learn about the gospel once a week with the family, rather than in the Church setting. So yeah, I've been to single's wards where the FHE was just kind-of getting together and playing volleyball. Which is great if you love volleyball. But if you don't, or you're really coming because, ya know, like Ciro or like me in Houston, or James in Oregon, like there may not be a whole lot of people in your area that share the same beliefs that you do. That's why you go to FHE. Is to share common beliefs with people your own

age. And it doesn't have to be big. It can be a little 5-minute devotional and then break out and have the party with a purpose. You know. But um,

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, so that is important, to make sure that those opportunities come where you're able to have a little spiritual thing and maybe even a big spiritual thing, to make that part of it. And FHE, when we start to say the FHE, it kind-of starts to sound like a foreign language. It stands for Family Home Evening. Just to clarify.

CIRO ABRIL: Yeah, I was thinking that FHE is the perfect environment to help singles, to show society that they also care. Like you said, it's very important to prepare for FHE. I have been to a ton of FHE's and it's like, "Yeah who wants to pray, and let's just sing a hymn and have a spiritual thought and let's go play. Which is great. I make like a lot of friends at that. But yes, you go a lot of times with a spiritual need of learning something, doing something, or becoming something that you may not be, or something that you want to be. I remember, this wasn't really an FHE activity, but it was very important to me...because of the friends down in singles' wards down in Columbia. We just got together every Sunday to sing hymns and to help the Spirit feel. Sorry. Um, it was just very touching to see that people, a simple hymn would change the day of someone who's been in pain for a whole lot of hours or days. And it was interesting to me because even though I was from another country, I had been like 2 weeks here, my friends from FHE became really close to me. And we're still friends after 5 years.

NANCY HANSON: So you had those experiences together that really meant something.

CIRO ABRIL: It was very nice and I felt I grew as a person...

NANCY HANSON: See and that's the thing about service, is that it always ends up coming back to you, ya know. And it always feels so good. And when you have those opportunities with other people it is bonding. Yeah, thanks for sharing that. So what about any kind of service examples?

JAMES DALTON: In Oregon, I just remember doing so many service activities where we're out in nature. And we're either taking ivy off trees because it kills the trees, or we're building a nature trail or just doing a lot of tree-hugger type activities, I guess. Which, they're really fun because you are around a lot of people and you're doing something good. And it's something where you can talk to people and you can meet new people. And it's, and you're out in the sun unless it's raining, which happens a lot.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: And that's cool too, because people who aren't necessarily athletic can get out and do something active. I think we tend to think in the two extremes. We think we need to do something sporty, or we need to do something non-sporty. But the non-sporty thing always ends up being something like board games. Why not be outside doing something cool like that? I like that.

EMILY SNYDER: And I think anything with service, okay we're in a single's ward. And I think the ultimate goal is that we find people and have meaningful conversations that eventually lead to a marriage. And I think a service project or doing any sort of service is going to create a conversation different than any social gathering. Dances are fun, but the conversations are very different. And you find out different things about each other in a non-dating parameter at a service project than you do in a social gathering per se. Even just the tying of quilts, ya know? So many different things that you could do in helping the area around us. And I think Single's have got a great ability to be used in so many service opportunities around us. I think every University or college has a service center that has a thousand of different ideas of where you can find different schools or different organizations to be involved.

NANCY HANSON: Thanks. So what, I'm just curious. What do you think, why does the Church organize these single's wards? What is the purpose? And do you feel like being a part of that, a member of that, that that, that whatever the purpose is being accomplished and being served? That it's filling a place in your life that is important and that makes a difference? That's kind-of a loaded question. But I guess, what would be...what would be the reason for single's wards? Ya know, why not just go to the family ward in the area that you live?

JASON SMITH: It's a numbers game. You put Single's together and have a better chance- it's the difference between shoppin' at 7-11 and shoppin' at Walmart.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: You're talking to get to marriage.

JASON SMITH: Absolutely. I mean, yeah. We blush and beat around the bush, but at the end of the day, that's why we're here on this earth. And we're here to perfect ourselves. And the Church created this wonderful program where single's can get together and get to know each other in a clean, wholesome atmosphere where the Holy Ghost can be there. And our best selves can come out.

NANCY HANSON: Very well said.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: I like that it alleviates the pressure of marriage. I mean, it seems it wouldn't- that it would put on more pressure because you go to the single's ward to find your spouse. But if you're going, and you're attending, and you're worshipping, you come together with people of common ground. And you're more likely to find that person that really fits you and is compatible with you. Especially if you're attending activities and the activities are fun. And that they do have that purpose in mind of making sure that people are getting to know one another on a casual basis so then you can go out and date.

CIRO ABRIL: I think it's very important when you said, about really going and worshipping. My only concern with single's wards is when it becomes something different. I've been going for a long time, so I can't go any more. I'm too old. But I've seen different ways to be (run or around) a single's ward, and sometimes it's really sad because I myself have become, and I have done things that I don't like that happen sometimes in singles' wards, because people don't go just to worship, but it's like a, like we were talking before, like a meat market. It's like just to look at everybody like, "He's cute," or "He's handsome." I want to talk to her 'cause she's cute...or I like her dress, or like this, and sometimes it really defeats the purpose of worshipping and coming together and unto Christ as singles. But more like, just a social environment where you can go and meet someone nice who is great and believe the same thing you believe and so but yet sometimes we just don't do the things we believe.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, I think that's a good point, finding kind of that balance and being able to get your spiritual needs met there as well, and really kind of self-evaluating, "why is it that I'm coming to this ward?" and ya know, as you're getting ready in the morning, preparing yourself for that meeting and for the sacrament, and for the reasons that you go to Church. So why is it, I guess meeting all these people and the dating, to the Church, I mean why is this so important for the singles? I mean this is kind-of a silly question, but I think about some of the young women I've worked with who have never had the opportunity in a singles' ward because they've gotten married right out of High School or they've just chosen to stay in Young Women's or their parents ward. And I think, "wow, they're really missing out." Because there's some great, great things that I learned participating in a singles' ward. And not only the people that you meet, but the opportunities that you have to serve. Maybe we can take a minute and discuss that. Maybe look at some of the callings you've had and how you feel like that's just, I mean in a way it does. It really changes your life and you feel so much more prepared to actually be a parent and to be a spouse and to be in that situation giving you that responsibility. Anybody want to share?

JASON SMITH: I know there's two very different experiences. There's the single's experience when

you're living here in Utah and there's the single's experience back home in Alabama where there were 15 of us in the city and then you drive two hours to a dance. And I think the difference, I think your experience is different. But where I've grown up and a lot of it, and my memories, and the things I've experienced and a lot of the single's program, it's just about banding together. There are so many things you encounter in the outside world that you're constantly bombarded. And once or twice a week you have the chance to get together with the small group of people who normally you might not hang out with. And that's a, it's kind-of a luxury here because everybody's LDS. You can pick and choose. Back there, I hung out with a lot of people I would never talk to anywhere else. But we had the gospel in common. And I think it brought us closer together and made us a little more sensitive. Ya know, when somebody didn't show up that week. Different schools of thought, and different experiences.

EMILY SNYDER: I was called when I was 19 to be a Relief Society President, but it was at a boy scout ranch in New Mexico. So the staff there, we had our own branch and I was Relief Society President for the girls that were there. And it was interesting doing visiting teaching through mail by a camper that might be going out to that camp and it was just really interesting. And the greatest thing, and thinking of spiritual growth from being single was when I was released from that. And I think that was the first time I physically felt the reality and mantle of a calling. And I think, I remember just walking and on the road that day and just realizing "wow, there's a reality of these callings. And there's a reality of service in this church and that this is what we signed up for when we were baptized, is to be a part of this and to help each other's lives grow." And as Jason was talking about the groups outside of Utah, I think that's something, I crave to be in smaller singles' wards. I crave to be in a smaller setting where there are limited amounts of singles because of that relationship that happens when you have to find friendships. Versus the multitudes where you do get really choosy or picky and you just tend to get a little more complacent. And I think that's been a life skill that I've learned as far as in the Church. The reality of callings and then the reality of having to make the effort myself.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, such a good point.

JAMES DALTON: I think one of my favorite things about single's wards is how different church meetings are in single's wards. The topics are, it's still gospel centered and things, but the comments are really different and it's, it applies to you a lot more. Like when I'm home going to my home ward, it's talking about some things that don't really apply to me and you don't pay attention as much. But then you're a lot more involved when you're in a single's ward. You're talking about things that everyone in the ward deals with on a regular basis. And it's fun to kind-of prepare lessons like that and like know that you're going to be talking, that people are going to be excited about talking in Sunday School or whatever meeting it is.

NANCY HANSON: It's easy to get, it's easier to get a discussion going in a way because everyone's in the same boat. James, have you had that opportunity to teach in a Single's ward?

JAMES DALTON: Yeah, I was a Sunday School teacher for awhile and you're just looking at the lesson and you're thinking of all these questions and just like asking if people have had experiences like that. Sometimes it seems like in my home ward it's like, "Has anyone had an experience like this?" And it's just like quiet. But then in a single's ward, everyone's hands go up and they have really cool stories about just, I don't know, they all just want to share their experiences.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, I agree, I think for me making that switch. I'm telling you, after being in single's wards for so long and then switching to a family ward was like, "What?" Because these people, everyone brings, you know, you're kind-of, you're on the same boat, ya know? And it just is so, it can really get down into some, quickly into spiritual topics and cover a lot of ground where, and then it's just really easy to feel the Spirit. That's the thing. It's like you almost just walk in and it's there is, especially in Sacrament meeting and in some of those Relief Society meetings I've been in. It's like, "wow, how could you not feel this if you were here?" And it's a blessing to be able to have that experience and to be able to feel that. And Emily, what you said about "wow, being 19 and being called to be a Relief Society President," what an experience! Suddenly you have to get it in so many different ways, ya know? And a lot of people don't have that opportunity. And that is what's cool about it.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, I think it provides an excellent training ground. Because how often does that happen, where a 19 year old girl gets called as Relief Society President. And I remember thinking when I was down in Houston and I was called, I had been in leadership positions where I was the music coordinator or I was the activities coordinator. And looking around in council meetings at the auxiliary board and knowing that we were all under 28 years old, but we were the leaders of the ward. And what a responsibility that was. And how we had the Stake president at our side to help us and the Bishop with us right there to help us. And we really came together learning how to lead and learning what it meant to have a responsibility, but having the Lord to help us because we were obviously inexperienced in leadership. **I think about, a lot of times, about the young adult going to a family ward, sometimes you get pigeon holed in the primary teaching calling which is beautiful to see those little spirits learn the gospel.** But it's really invaluable to be a part of leadership training.

JASON SMITH: Family wards here, it's all ex-stake presidents, ex-bishops, yeah are going to get the ex-mission president to teach about Sunday school? Or are you going to get the 21 year old

fresh off his mission? Ya know, you've got this talent pool that's used from, in the single's ward program gives us the chance to have those teaching and those leadership opportunities. Whereas outside Utah, man if you're a member and you've got a recommend, you've got a job. They keep you busy.

CIRO ABRIL: It's true. When I got back from my mission, I was called to be a second counselor in the bishopric. I'm a high priest. So I go to High Priest's because I go to a family ward now and it's, it's awesome. They're so smart, but I just don't talk. Where I'm going with this is I think sometimes as singles we take for granted the opportunity we have to serve in a single's ward. Because, as I said, back home I have sometimes 3 different callings at the same time. And when I came here, my friend said, "Oh you're never going to have a calling in your life again. Because everybody's a member in Utah, and everybody does everything. And maybe you can pass around hymn books." And I said, "Okay." But when I am in the single's wards, I always have callings in the Sunday School presidency or as Sunday school teacher or just so many different things that in a family ward you might not have the opportunity to experience yet, because as they say, we have a lot of people that are very capable and stuff. So single's wards are very good training place.

EMILY SNYDER: And I think with that training, I look at the relationships I had with my priesthood leaders in single's wards. Amazing. And the opportunity to learn from them and the interactions I had with them that I don't have in family wards, was incredible.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, I remember serving, I got called to be the chorister. No, the choir director. And I play the guitar and sing and song-write and perform and do things like that, so suddenly people think I'm capable of leading a choir and reading music, I don't even know how to read music. And so I was like, "Oh, no no no, you've got the wrong person" and of course they said, "no we don't. That's you." And so I did the calling and I remember just, it was so so hard. And I struggled so much with it. But I felt these were my friends, my peers, that I was like, la la la....I was trying to lead and trying to help them and I remember standing and we had to sing and it was, I don't know, Christmas or something. And I was just weeping as I was leading this little choir of my friends from my ward and my brothers and sisters. And I just came to love them as my little choir. And even though I felt so inadequate, like I don't know what I'm doing, I just remember appreciating much later of course that I had the opportunity to serve and to have that calling. I don't know if they'd call me to that in my family ward. Just because there are so many other capable people. Maybe they thought that I was the best one, in the single's ward to do that. And so it's things like that where you're suddenly in this position where you're like, "I can't do that, but everybody else thinks I can, so I guess I'll do it."

CIRO ABRIL: Well Heavenly Father knows you and he knows your potential and he knows what you can become.

NANCY HANSON: That's a good reminder. Thank-you. Let's talk for a minute about your role. Each of you in your family, in your home family. I don't know how many of you live, if they live in the state with you or whatever, but how your role in your family is and how you affect that family. Like I know, I was always the non-married sister. All my brothers were married and they were starting to have kids and I lived just with my roommate downtown and I was the hippie musician. And that was sort of what I did and I became this Aunt that, ya know, took care of my nieces and nephews and it kind-of felt like I was in a little bit of an awkward spot. Because I wasn't quite, I hadn't cut completely from my parents in a way. I was still dependent in some ways. It's a little bit of an awkward position to be in. But where do you feel you find yourself in your family roles?

JASON DALTON: I'm an uncle. I love it, it's actually a lot of fun. You get all the fun of the little kids and none of the responsibility. My brother and I just baby-sat our nieces and nephew, I have a brother that's not married either. We have a sister with 4 kids and we had the chance to babysit them the other day for a couple of hours and it was such an experience. I went home and took a bubble bath at the end. I went to bed at like 10 o'clock. So...usually I'm just an uncle that brings presents and hugs and tickles and things like that but it's still fun.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, I need you to be my little brother. My kids would love that.

CIRO ABRIL: Well, I think sometimes it can be overwhelming. It depends on the situation you have. I'm the only member of my family. And they live so far away, so I haven't seen my family in about 5 years. I do talk to my mom every week. But they always looking at me because of what I do and what I don't do because I'm a member of the Church. And being so far away you will say that they don't have a chance to know what I do, but they do. They now people and they can feel my happiness or not. So I think that me as a single, but member of the church more than just single has a big effect on my family in the future if they accept or not, or in preparation for them. I can see my brothers and my mom coming to me for advice, just because they think that I'm following just a very good religion. And my mom loves it, just don't want to join. So I think it can be overwhelming...

NANCY HANSON: Just a lot of responsibility. yeah.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: My family's still in Houston. And I'm the first one to leave and I'm quite a bit older than my siblings. My little sister who's 21 just got married a year ago. So she's kind-of

ahead in that phase of life. And I have a 14 year old brother who's still at home and very dependent, obviously, on my parents. So I'm kind-of, I feel a big example responsibility on my shoulders, that I make sure that what I do is true to myself. That my happiness is because I want it. And that if I'm struggling, that I don't try to hide it, but I work with my parents in my struggles. And that's something that as singles, I think we kind-of forget, is that we can still go to our parents for help and advice. And even if they live thousands of miles away we can still talk to them and use their advice as valuable information and not feel like an island, like so many of us do as singles.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, such a good point. And I think for them, sometimes you're always going to be their little girl, but it's almost until you get married and you have that kind of person that's going to step in and, you know, now it's the two of you and you're a couple, they're still always going to hang on a little bit tighter. Ya know, my parents obviously were concerned about taking care of me, although I was, felt I was completely capable at that point.

EMILY SNYDER: I agree with that. I'm the oldest of 5 kids and my sister that's 6 years younger than me is married and has a baby and is pregnant with another one. And I've just kind-of watched a little bit of role reversal happening because of that, ya know, she's ahead in that phase. I like how you said that. And my dad doesn't have to worry about her the way he worries about me, because she has a husband to watch over her and take care of things. And I think as my siblings get older, the more that role reversal of being the oldest, that whatever, has kind-of been demolished because I watch their examples in different arenas and think, "Oh they're so good at that. I want to be like that." And it's just watching how we take a different lead in different aspects of our lives.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, that's an interesting observation. I have younger brothers that seem like older brothers to me just because of where we are in our lives.

JAMES DALTON: Well I'm right in the middle - I'm a middle child. My two older siblings are married and I have a younger brother on a mission and a younger brother in High School. So I'm just a recent returned missionary and I'm supposed to be now looking for a wife. That's supposed to be my next step. And so that's usually a topic that's brought up every once in awhile and so it's just, I don't know, it's kind-of um, I don't know, it's funny. It's fun to talk to my parents about it. They aren't really pressuring me or anything. They're just making sure I'm doing the right things and just making sure I'm putting myself out there and meeting people all the time and so...

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, it's kind-of a, it's sort of a weird space in your life that you have to figure out a little

bit and I think it's a blessing to to have that time to be able say, now wait a second. Now what is it that I that I really want? And I had the chance to serve a mission and I think, if I would have married the guy that I was going to before I went on my mission, I'd be a completely different person. I got out there and realized there are so many different types of people in the world and so many different kinds of marriages and attitudes and I just thought, what if I just had stayed home and married this guy? So then being able to come home from that and meeting different people in single's wards and even your branch leaders or bishops and stuff like that, their families. It opens your eyes to the world. So this time in your life where it's a little bit like wandering around in the dark wondering, because there's so many decisions, I think, especially as you come home from your mission. You're like, "I loved my mission because every day there was a schedule and that's all I had to do for that day. And I knew I was going to be doing that for the next how many months." And then you come home and you're like, "Oh I have to decide all these things on my own and there's so much pressure." So it is kind-of a, it is kind-of a scary, I don't know, stumbling time of your life, that can also be a huge blessing, and a time to figure things out.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, I think it's one of the coolest times of life. As difficult and as challenging as it is, I've come to find out in my past 12 years in singles programs is that life doesn't really get easier. Experiences just change and they evolve. And I think when I was younger I think I thought when I got married life would be figured out and I'd know the next step. And I think now as I'm approaching 30, I'm thinking marriage is just the next phase, **but I've taken these last 12 years to figure out how to get through the next 10. And what a blessing it is that I've had all this time in single's wards and with my friends and using my family to figure out who I am and what to do as a single person, as a married person, as a mother, as a wife, as a friend, as a visiting teacher, whoever I can become.** And I can figure that out by myself! Which is really invaluable. I think it's really awesome that we have this time.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, amen sister. I'm giving her a high five. I love that. Sometimes when I have the chance to speak to young women's groups, I try to tell them that exact same thing. Because there's so much to learn at this time and it really can be a great time in your life.

EMILY SNYDER: I loved President Uchtdorf's talk in the General Relief Society meeting. Sorry guys, you probably are... yeah, and there's that youtube video about Create from that general Relief Society meeting. And I loved it because he illustrated and enumerated so many opportunities in how to be a creator and how to create things. And I, and for me, and just listening to this discussion, **the beauty of being single** and I think the heavy responsibility of priesthood leaders in a singles ward is to help create opportunities for singles to become something. **I think one of the greatest things about a marriage is that you instantly have somebody that's your mirror to show you who you are, and then you can kind of then judge who you want to be according to who you are right now and to have**

somebody be that support system. And the peace of being single is that you don't always have that to kind-of be your gauge and your backdrop in becoming who you want to become. And that, I think, is the beauty and the challenge, is there are so many opportunities...I was engaged once and we broke it off and this lady in the world was like, "But you have so many opportunities." And I was like, "I don't want all these opportunities. I don't want all these doors to open." But that is an exciting thing, to decide what talents and skills and hobbies I want to create and pursue. And that also is very scary, just like your Hawaii activity. It's going to mold who we are, and then mold who we become with our spouses in the future and our families.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, so well said. That was just, that was beautiful. And I think really, that's what we kind-of base this program about, is Elder Uchtdorf's talk and the creativity. And as we've talked today I've thought about that as how ya know, it is a time that we're creating. What are we creating? We are creating...Ourselves. We're working on us and who we're going to be. That was so well-said. Thank-you for sharing that. This is a very easy interview. Thank-you. Let's talk for a minute about technology and social networking and all the opportunities that are out there for single's. How do you think that that has helped? How is that a part of your lives? I know that we, ya know, when we, I think texting is great as far as letting people know, "hey we've got an activity tonight." Ya know before, when, back in the olden days when you actually had to pick up a phone and actually try to call people at their home ya know? Then you had an excuse for not showing up. But now there's really not an excuse because you can text people.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, the availability of being able to get the word out instantaneously is really great and Facebook groups and things like that where you can kind-of advertise in a cool way and post your pictures so you can remember the fun times. I think the thing that we, that technology can kind-of take away is that personal touch. And just remember to balance between the personal invitations just as much as we're using the technology to invite. And we should be using both, and not taking either one for granted.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, there's a danger there.

CIRO ABRIL: I love technology, but I found that it was too much, when I asked a girl out through texting. I felt horrible. I was like, "Oh my gosh, what did I just do?" And it's so easy. And I think the big thing here is you don't have to face the person. And I think she feels comfortable to say, "no it's okay. If I blush, no one will know." But I think that's what molds your character. When you do things that even if you have to be embarrassed, but you do it. And that's what's going to help you make the decisions, the important decisions in life later on, when you have to face things. So I'm 50 50 that way.

NANCY HANSON: No, I think you're right.

EMILY SNYDER: I love texting when somebody was gone from Relief Society and they didn't want to have a conversation with me and I would say, I wanted to acknowledge that I recognized they weren't in Relief Society that day but I knew they weren't going to want to have a chit chat about it. So just a quick, "hey I missed your face in Relief Society today. Hope you're doing good." So it was non-abrasive, they could take it for the thought that it was without having a huge, "Why didn't you come to church?" and all that stuff.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah because maybe all of that would've gone unsaid, but this gives you an opportunity to casually send that out and to let them know.

EMILY SNYDER: And a quick, "Hi," we don't have to have a huge conversation. Even just with friends. Just, "Thinkin' about you, hope you have a good day." And I love that aspect of texting.

NANCY HANSON: Jason, do you have something to say? You look like you're just squirming in your seat.

JASON SMITH: I'm just happy to be here. No, technology, we hear about all the evils of, just all the naughty things that people can do with the internet, and technology and there's so many bad things you can do with it, and at the same time, it's such a blessing. When I first learned about this, I got online and looked at it and it turns out that this is on iTunes. And it's interesting seeing the church take technology and using it to bless all our lives of others. And as far as technology and dating and being single, yeah, there's times when a text message comes in kind-of handy. I just learned that I can't ask anyone out with a text.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: You can flirt with texting.

JASON SMITH: You can flirt with texting?

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Yeah, absolutely.

JASON SMITH: I don't know. Sometimes you meet somebody and you get nervous, and you want to call

them up and I'm sure I'm the only one who's ever done this. I've called a girl and said something stupid and then when I hang up the phone, you slam your head against the wall a couple of times. But when you're texting, you've got that two or three minute lull of where you can think of something witty or ask your roommate, who usually doesn't know what he's talking about, and answer them back. So it's a double-edged sword.

NANCY HANSON: It is. It is. I don't know if it's such a cop-out. Honestly, I'm sorry I said that. I just think, I was thinking the other day about this I don't even know why, but I thought, "wow, it would be so much easier, it would be fun like after," 'cuz when I was dating my husband we didn't even have that. Well he doesn't even have a cell phone now so I can't even text him and flirt now, but I thought that'd be kind-of cool. Like you're driving home and you can just send a little thing, like, 'wow that was fun.' Ooo, not while you're driving. You would pull over and you would text him.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: Let's just say not to send 10 in a row. You can over-do the flirt texting. Yeah.

CIRO ABRIL: How about 9 in a row?

JASON SMITH: And another thing is facebook. I'm here because of facebook. Someone facebooked me and said, "Hey do you want to be on the radio tomorrow?" So it's good and bad. A couple of weeks ago I had an ex get married. And we all have a little heartbreak when an ex gets married. There's a piece of you that dies. I'm sure I'm not the only one. But the day before that happened, I got a facebook message from a girl that I baptized on my mission. And I hadn't talked to her in 15 years. And out of nowhere I get this message from somebody I baptized. And all these wonderful feelings, and she was still, a lot of times, at the end of my mission I went back to visit some of my baptisms and a lot of them had gone inactive. It's a little, it's a painful reality that sometimes happens. But she was a Relief Society president. And at this horrible time in my life, I mean it wasn't horrible, but ya know, potential, it had been a painful day. The Lord took this technology and used it to have someone contact me and bless my life for a day.

NANCY HANSON: Oh I love that example. Yeah, very nice. That's true. The Lord works in mysterious ways.

JASON SMITH: Blessed by facebook.

NANCY HANSON: Thanks for sharing that. Well, I did want to talk, now that we're getting towards the end, about, I think we've already covered this, your role as a single in society and also how being single has blessed your life and finding happiness as a single. It seems like all of you that here today that we're having this discussion with, have been able to find that place in your life where this is pretty good, and to be able to appreciate it. I think sometimes it gets hard, I mean of course it does. And we know that the ultimate goal that we all want and that Heavenly Father wants for us is to be married and have a family. So I don't know if we should call it a waiting time, necessarily, because I don't think that's the right word.

BROOKE HOLYOAK: It's preparing ground.

JASON SMITH: Terrestrial purgatory.

NANCY HANSON: All sorts of ideas. But what about this time?...Anything, we've talked about this, but any other thoughts about the single time in your life and that you can appreciate. And how you find happiness during this time. That sounded horrible, like, How do you possibly find happiness. But that's not at all what I mean. **Because I think that some of my greatest, greatest, happiest times were that time in my life. And you think, um, well it does get better in certain ways. There are things that are definitely rewarding that come in the future. But anyway, any thoughts?**

CIRO ABRIL: Well I think that, we've said this already, but this is really the time to prepare. And I consider myself a dreamer, a little. So I do want to change the world. And I know that it happens individually first and then the people that you know and just things spread around. **But I think it's very sad that we just focus on getting married right now and miss all the opportunities we have like going to school, maybe getting better grades than we have or preparing to do something for this world.** Because we're not just, yes, we're here to get married and to have a family, but we also have to have the tools and the skills to teach our children and our family so they can become the persons that we want to be also. That our Father in Heaven wants us to be also. So I think that taking advantage, some have said this, but going to school or getting better in a career or hobbies like music, or something that helps you to be better every day, and to develop your gifts that you have from heaven is very important just to do. **This is the time because you'll have a family and not as much time as now.**

NANCY HANSON: **Good point. This is the time.**

BROOKE HOLYOAK: I think in a lot ways too, this time of singledom is kind-of, for me it's been my refiner's fire where I have really faced some of the most difficult things, I think, maybe that I will face. And some really serious heartbreaks and serious struggles **that I think if I was married when I was really young, it, I probably would've gotten through them the same, but it might have taken longer and I would've had to sacrifice getting through my own struggles at the cost of making sure my children are being raised the way that I want them to. And I would do it happily. But being able to be single and dealing with my struggles and my challenges allows me to have just a true one on one relationship with my Heavenly Father. To really just to be me and the Lord and to say, "help me through this and I know we can get through this together." Without having to worry about the responsibility that comes with the blessing of marriage but just being able to be me and to work on me. And not selfishly, but learn who I am.**

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, thanks Brooke.

JASON SMITH: Every time I, it seems like every time I talk to my mother on the phone, she likes to remind me that because I'm single I have free time. And she wants to know what I'm doing with that free time. And she always reminds me that, ya know, what are you doing to serve? And there's a stewardship that goes along with being single. And I think the Lord wants to know what you're going to do with it. **And personally, it keeps me out of trouble, and so it is kind of a blessing. We have this ability to do things that we might not be able to do if we were married.** So make the best of it.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, such a good point. Thanks Jason.

EMILY SNYDER: I just got back from D.C. a few weeks ago and I was babysitting. My girl friend's on bed rest with twins and she has two other kids and she's just, her husband's a first year lawyer, and they were just really crazy busy and things...just laundry wasn't getting done. And she said, could you come out and watch and just kind-of be mom in the house and so I did and it was amazing. And for 10 days I was the substitute mom and whoa!.

NANCY HANSON: That's a lot to be thrown into for 10 days.

EMILY SNYDER: Yeah, it really was and I, I'm a school teacher and I kind-of felt competent and I felt like I could do this. Holy manoly. **I'm so grateful for the moments that I've had in discovering, as we're talking about myself and the experience that I've had to discover me. And I thought I was doing a good job of working in my preparation time. I'm not. I've got so much more to work on.**

NANCY HANSON: No, you are. This is what happens. Those kids usually come one at a time and it's kind-of a slower process and you build up and you learn and grow. It's just not fair to like throw that and to judge yourself on that.

EMILY SNYDER: But you know, like I found myself, I was wanting to you know, look up things on websites, 'how do I entertain preschool kids.' There were so many skills that I realized I thought I had but I wanted so much more. I wanted to be able to do better at bargain shopping for food, cleaning, and all those different things that is the beautiful calling of a mother and the vitality of those roles. And I wanted to be so much better at them. And so I think in finding a purpose in "single-dom" and in the singles time period is realizing I have some things I want to learn.

NANCY HANSON: Right. Jason you talked about your mom saying you have free time. I remember thinking, you know, my parents would always, kind-of, 'well ask Nancy. She's got more free time than the rest of us.' That's not necessarily true. Because I worked full-time and I was in school and I felt like I, of course I'd filled my life up with lots of big things to stay busy and so it's, it kind-of in a way, at times, I'd be a little insulted with that. Because sometimes it's, ya know it's hard, you are your family. It's just one person. And to have to fulfill all the things you're trying to do and to be all the places you need to be, it's a little bit challenging. So maybe we can talk about ways you've maybe been creative in trying to find those, how you schedule your life so that you can accomplish all those things that you need to do. And maybe you've got a secret Jason. Maybe all your free time, I don't know.

JASON SMITH: I think that, well in talking about the free time, I would hate to insult anyone or say anyone's lazy or has too much free time, but I think that when you are single, there is that tendency to live just for me. And to focus on myself, when a part of the gospel is about helping others and blessing the lives of others. And as you bless the lives of others, you end up blessing yourself. So free time, some have more than others. You know, there was times I was working three jobs and I had no free time. And there's times when you're in school and you maybe have a lot of free time.

NANCY HANSON: Right, and I guess it depends if you have free time and you start filling it up with things that aren't really that important, then suddenly you don't have free time. I see what you're saying. If you take a look at your life and say what am I doing that's not really, I am busy but is something that I really need to be doing and where could I better spend my energy?

JASON SMITH: Yeah, there's always, if you look around or when you get on your knees and ask the Lord for humility something bad happens. When you ask the Lord for, when you really sincerely get on your knees and ask for opportunities to serve, the opportunities will show up. I, a couple of weeks ago I had the chance to come and clean the conference center. And it wasn't because I was this wonderful person, I was curious more than anything, just wanted to see what it looked like.

NANCY HANSON: Behind the scenes.

JASON SMITH: Yeah, well I'd never been inside. So I wanted to see what it was like on the inside. But it was a good experience. It wasn't difficult, it was just a couple hours one night. And it was a good chance, and I felt like I was better for it. Even though maybe my motives were just to check it out on the inside.

EMILY SNYDER: There's a Pursuit of Excellence pamphlet that the Church produces that a stake president had us look through. And it's kind-of like the Duty To God / Personal Progress, but more of a generic thing. There's five different principles and then just a list of ideas of goals of improvement. Of going to a museum and taking an art class. And just a list of ideas of different things to improve your life. And I think finding that free time and deciding how best to use that free time is one of the greatest things. You end up doing laundry, you know, at midnight, or foregoing Saturday chores until once a month, often times. But I think the reality of organizing our lives, like you were commenting that Singles are a family in and of themselves. There's nobody to take out the trash or make the dinner. You have to do all those things that typically a man and wife share those responsibilities, you get to do all those by yourself! And that's so fun sometimes. Not really. That was so sarcastic. But I think for me, finding the things that really are important to me and then the things that have to happen, making, fitting those in the other places sometimes.

CIRO ABRIL: I think also, well, prioritizing is very important. I think there's two different categories that you can progress or be better. There's some things that you do, like everybody does like go to school and stuff like that. But there's specific things that you do. There're things that you want to do. And you want to be better. And I think those are important and they're forgotten sometimes. Esp, in my case. I love playing guitar. But I do not take the time to progress, and the other day somebody asked me to play something. I just realized that i played that same songs that I've been playing for five years. And I felt well, what happened? 'why haven't I learned something new? Why haven't I learned the violin, if I want to learn the violin. So I think find things and things that define you as a unique individual are important too.

EMILY SNYDER: I was on a single's committee and we had this massive dance and it was publicized to the wazoo. And there were thousands of people that showed up to the dance. And a lot of people felt that it was a success. And I was livid. I was completely livid because I thought, "Whatever. Anybody could've done this dance. But if we're doing something in the name of the Church, it's gotta be to create disciples of Christ." That we have to be creating disciples of Christ so that when we do find spouses that are driven and wanting to be disciples of Christ with us, that we're creating families of disciples. Because I think our generation more than any other time has to prepare. And we've got to get ready. And the Savior's coming and I think it's a divine purpose that there are a number of single's that are not married yet. Because they're having to do a lot of self-discovery and finding themselves, to be stronger in different moments. And not to say that those that are married young aren't having those, but beautifully, the Lord has tailor-made our experiences. And I think that sole purpose is so that we have families. That we are raising children that know Him and want to bring people unto Him. And if we're just having single activities or just having casual relationships that aren't to that end, then I just think, what a waste. As members of the Church I think we're expected to be and do and to create more. And how sad. How sad that if the Lord looks upon us and says, 'this is all that I've given you, and this is what you've done with it?' Ouch. That could be really painful.

NANCY HANSON: Yeah, so true I think that it may be, ya know, easy to become too comfortable at this stage in your lives. And we don't want to reinforce that and make it like, "Oh let's just always party and be single and do all these things for ourselves." Because that does, ya know, it does get comfortable. And I think you could stay in that place for too long. And so to always have the fire under us to continue to move forward and to continue to develop and become the best person we can be. And the reality is that some of us will remain in that stage of life for our entire lives, you know? And to be able to continue to grow and to give and to serve and to love, if that is what is in store for you, you know?

JASON SMITH: But don't stop, don't stop trying.

EMILY SNYDER: Don't stop trying.

JASON SMITH: And don't stop believing.

EMILY SNYDER: And it's always a preparation that, the end goal is a preparation for a marriage - And preparation to be a father and a mother and a wife and a husband. That is the end goal of any, anything we do to fill our time during this waiting period has to be solely for that purpose and not just, so that I can be cooler. But only to become more prepared at those

divine roles.

NANCY HANSON: Right. I think that is critical. It's so important. Thank you so much. Well, you're listening to Everything Creative on the Mormon Channel. We're talking about creativity with Singles today and I want to thank you all for being here today, James and Emily, Jason, Brooke and Ciro thank-you so much for joining us today in the studio. And best of luck to you all.

You've been listening to a group discussion with single adult members of the Church on Everything Creative.