



Mark 10.1-12

INTRODUCTION

Jesus teaches that marriage is God's design—a permanent, exclusive, intimate union between a man and a woman—and explains that Moses' allowance for divorce was a concession to human hardness of heart. From this we learn that marriage is meant to reflect the faithful, sacrificial love of Christ for His church, requiring us to die to self and depend on the transforming power of God's grace to live according to His design.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- What is your overall impression of Jesus in this passage?

REVIEW

- Have someone read **Mark 10.1-12**
- What was the test they gave to Jesus?
- Read V5: What does this teach us about the difference between what God permits and what God desires?
- What is God's vision of marriage?
- What is God's understanding of divorce?

APPLICATION

- Why is it important to begin with God's design for marriage rather than our own experiences or feelings?
- What do you think it practically means for a husband and wife to become "one"?
- What are some things that can strengthen that unity, and what are some things that can slowly pull a marriage apart?
- What characteristics of Christ's love should be especially visible in a Christian marriage?
- How might thinking about marriage as a reflection of Christ's love change the way a husband or wife responds during conflict?
- Why isn't simply knowing what God commands enough to produce a healthy marriage?
- How does the gospel give us hope when our marriage, our spouse, or our own heart falls far short of God's design?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?