

TALK IT OVER

- How has praying for your spouse/ relationships been going? What has it done for your relationships (marriages, dating, friendships)? How have you started fighting for your marriages/relationships? What steps have you taken against the enemies distractions and seductions?

Read Matthew 19:1-11 (Passage is on 2nd page. This is from The New Living version. Feel free to use or read from your own Bible/app. The passage starts with “When Jesus finished saying these things...so familiarize yourself with the end of chapter 18). Once you’ve read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (His approach to marriage- covenant versus casual or contract. Why would God allow Moses to handle it like he did? Why did Jesus add to how it was handled? What could be the reasoning? How does that strengthen marriages/relationships?)
- What did you learn about people? (Why do we approach marriage in those 3 categories? Why would the Pharisees, other than trapping Jesus, even worry about being able to divorce for any reason? What does it say about Moses’ time that they could treat their spouses like that?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (What are your thoughts on the 3 categories Brad talked about: Casual, Contract and Covenant? How does Hebrews 13:4 align with current norms? If what Jesus says is true and if what the author of Hebrews says is true what does that mean for us today?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (What concrete steps do you need to take right now? This question could open a can of worms. If someone opens up about marriage/relationship issues or addiction to pornography put them in touch with staff so we can get them the help they need.)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn’t hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read John 4. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you’re doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

TALK IT OVER

Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

Matthew 19:1-11 New Living Translation (NLT)

Discussion about Divorce and Marriage

19 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went down to the region of Judea east of the Jordan River. ² Large crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick.

³ Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

⁴ "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'^[a]" ⁵ And he said, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."^[b] ⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, let

no one split apart what God has joined together."

⁷ "Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?"^[c] they asked.

⁸ Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. ⁹ And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.^[d]"

¹⁰ Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!"

¹¹ "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps.