



JOURNEY GROUPS

NOV 16 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- As we are winding down for this first semester, make sure you keep relationships a priority. Take the time to invest in one another this week!
- Keep working on and communicating your end of the fall plans with your group. Figure out what week you'll be ending your weekly meetings and try to plan a fun Christmas party! When you have those plans, let me know as well so that I can know what's going on! Just as a reminder, most groups will take a three week break (the weeks of Dec 14, Dec 21, and Dec 28) before kicking off again the week of January 4.
- Even though we only have a few weeks left before break, keep pressing in! Our people are hungry and want to grow, so let's help them in that. Figure out ways to keep challenging and going deeper as a group.
- If you haven't tried doing testimonies in your group, these last few weeks might be a good time to try it out!
- For the Christmas season, it would be great to come up with ways to serve as a group as well. If you need help with ideas, please reach out!

SHARE

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- What is your most unpopular opinion about weddings?
- What's the funniest or strangest piece of "relationship advice" you've ever heard—even if it was terrible?
- If you had to pick a movie or TV couple that most definitely does NOT represent a healthy relationship, who would you choose?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. In our study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount this week, we talked about divorce and marriage. This week's discussion will be especially helpful for married couples and for people who aren't single and want to be. Matt's goal on Sunday wasn't to bring another round of shame for those who have been through the pain of divorce, but instead to remind us of God's original design and intent for marriage. (For those who may be grieving over the pain of a divorce, we want to remind you that we have a great ministry called DivorceCare that is designed to help you heal from your divorce. The next session of DivorceCare will start in January 2026.)
2. **Have someone read Matthew 5:31-32.**
3. Before we get into the specifics of the passage, how do these verses fit into the overall flow of the Sermon on the Mount (*Jesus fulfilling the Law, exposing hearts, pointing us to our need for Him*)?
4. What can you remember from the sermon on Sunday about the cultural attitudes on divorce during the time of Jesus' ministry?
5. Why was 'easy divorce' so devastating to the women of Jesus' day?
6. Why do you think Jesus is so protective of marriage, even when He knew people would fail and struggle?
7. To further illustrate the dynamic we have been talking about, let's read and talk about Matthew 19, verses 3-10. **Read Matthew 19:3-10.**
8. How did Jesus answer their first question: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"
9. In verse 7, they try to pit Jesus against Moses. How does Jesus respond?
10. **Reread verse 10.** Why do the disciples respond the way that they do?
11. Matt made two big points on Sunday. He argued that biblical marriage, ordained by God is both exclusive and permanent. In what ways is Christian marriage exclusive?
12. In what ways is Christian marriage permanent?
13. What are Biblical grounds for divorce?

14. On Sunday, we looked at the meaning behind some classic wedding vows.

[Read the vows from Sunday and have people share which part of the vows were the most meaningful for them to learn about:]

I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded wife

To have and to hold from this day forward,

For better, for worse,

For richer, for poorer,

In sickness and in health,

To love and to cherish,

Til death do us part

15. What is marriage done "God's way?" (*committed to putting the other first*)

16. How is marriage like a mirror, revealing how selfish we can be?

17. Why does scripture command that Christians not be unequally yoked? Why should a Christian only marry another Christian? (see 2 Corinthians 6 if you want to go deeper)

18. On Sunday, Matt said that married people are 'stuck' with each other. Why is that not as 'unromantic' as it sounds?

19. For those who are married, what should our attitude be towards our spouse? (*How can I serve? How can I love better? Is my spouse blessed to have me as their teammate?*)

20. What does it practically look like to invite Jesus into the daily grind of marriage or the daily frustrations of singleness?

21. How does a marriage shaped by the gospel point people to Christ?

22. How can the church embody Jesus' compassion toward those who carry wounds, regret, or complex stories related to marriage?

23. How can we pray for one another—married, divorced, widowed, or single—to live in the freedom and grace of Jesus?

PRAYER

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