

Discussion Guide

It's Just A Piece of Paper Anyway!

July 26/27, 2025

PART 1: RECAP. HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS OUT LOUD.

This last week was about how Jesus challenged his disciples to live counter-culturally. As we move forward in Mark, our passage this week is similar in how it shows there is a different way of living that aligns us with who Jesus calls us to be. While there are many passages on marriage (and divorce), we can see how this one points us to God's original intent for marriage.

- Did your parents ever give you life advice growing up, marriage or otherwise?
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PART 2: HAVE SOMEONE READ MARK 10:1-12 OUT LOUD. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.

- How were the Pharisees attempting to trap Jesus with their question? What was their viewpoint on divorce?
 - Instead of answering their question, how does Jesus put them to the test by emphasizing God's intent for marriage?
 - What was the purpose of Moses' commandment concerning divorce?
 - What was God's intended purpose for marriage?
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PART 3: REFLECT. DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.

- What does Jesus' teaching on marriage reveal about God's view of covenant and faithfulness, not just in marriage but in all our commitments?
 - In what ways might we, like the Pharisees, try to find loopholes or justifications for actions that go against God's original intent? For relationships or otherwise?
 - What "hardheartedness" might prevent us from pursuing God's ideal in our relationships today?
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PART 4: MEMORY VERSE

Mark 10:7-9

'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

PART 5: NEXT STEPS

- I am thankful that Jesus is in the restoration business.
- I will uphold and honor marriage as a miracle of God.
- I will seek to understand God's original intent for my relationships and commitments.
- I will pray for God to intercede with marriages and families in crisis.

