

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 10:1-12

DIVORCE AND RECONCILIATION

The Pharisees once again attempt to trap Jesus by asking Him a key “hot button” question of the day – *is it lawful for a man divorce his wife?* Jesus’ response helps us to understand God’s ideal for marriage. We can all benefit by embracing and championing His good design.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read **Mark 10:1-12** and **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**. According to Jesus, why was divorce allowed under Old Testament law? Does this law represent an ethical ideal, or was it put in place for another reason?

What was Jesus’ definition of marriage? List the essential elements of marriage according to verses 5-9.

What was Jesus’ view regarding the legitimacy of remarriage after divorce? Consider this passage in Mark 10 as well as **Matthew 5:31-32** and **19:9** when answering this question.

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God’s Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

How do you define marriage? What distinguishes marriage from other types of relationships?

Do you consider divorce and remarriage a legitimate option for couples if there are problems in their relationship? Explain your answer.

How does your view on marriage and divorce compare with Jesus’ view?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Why do you think the divorce rate is so high in our culture and in the church today? What do think the solution is?

What hope does God offer to those who are guilty of violating their marriage covenant and to those who have been hurt by a divorce situation?

Whether you are married, soon-to-be married, or single, in what ways can you become a champion of God’s design for marriage in your own context?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Commit this week to:

1. Holding high God’s ideal for marriage.
2. Encouraging, strengthening, and praying for the married couples you know.
3. If you are married, being a model of godly marriage to those around you.