



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 05.06.2018**

### Recap:

- Jesus stepped into a debate that had been going on for hundreds of years regarding divorce and says that a man can't simply divorce his wife for trivial reasons. A man should not treat his wife like property. He must show her respect, dignity, and honor.
- Jesus showed that the law in scripture was not more sacred than the people God created. Therefore, a marriage is not more sacred than the people in it.
- The scripture about divorce is not written to be used to wound people who are going through pain but is written instead to show us how to love each other as God loves us.
- Healing and reconciliation is always possible with God, but it takes two people giving themselves and their marriage to God.
- The sermon this week and the verses we read are not the final word on divorce. While Jesus was speaking about divorce, the context shows us he was speaking much more about the sacred value we all carry.

### Discuss:

1. How would you describe how our society views marriage and divorce?
2. Do you think people who are religious (whether they are Christian or another religion) view marriage and divorce differently than people who are not religious? If so, how?
3. READ Matthew 5:31-32
4. The word Jesus uses for divorce isn't about a mutual parting of ways but about one person dismissing the other from their life. How might this be significant in our understanding of Jesus's teaching here?
5. We think of divorce in terms of the very end: the decision to file, the legality of the paperwork, the finality of a marriage. With Jesus's teaching in mind, how might our understanding of divorce and relationships change?
6. In the scripture passages we have studied the past three weeks, Jesus was being very clear that the primary issue when it comes to the Kingdom of God is how we value each other and how we love each other. With that in mind, how does this passage about divorce relate to the previous teachings on murder/anger and adultery/lust?
7. What are some ways that you can encourage those who are struggling in their marriages or those who are struggling with divorce?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

### Read at Home: Additional Readings

- Genesis 2:18-24: God creates Eve as a companion for Adam.
- Psalms 30: A psalm about God helping those who call for help.
- Ephesians 5:21-33: Paul writes about the nature of marriage.