



## Community Group Lesson Plan • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce

Passage: Matthew 19:1-12

#### Intro -

1. Why do you think there are so many divorces these days? What has happened in the last 50 years in our society to make divorce more acceptable and more common than prior to then? Are there good outcomes in those changes, what about bad outcomes?
2. Does our culture still view divorce shamefully?
3. Is divorce a subject that is talked about enough, too little, or too much in church? Why do you think some who don't talk about it, choose not to talk about it?

#### Sermon Points -

1. Marriages are Created by God to last a lifetime
  - a. The Pharisaic School of Hillel argued that divorce could be given for any reason. How is this similar to our culture today? If Jesus responded to this question the way he did in that time, what do you think he would say to us today? Does this lack compassion? Why or why not?
  - b. Why does Jesus cite the creation design when asked about this? What was God's original intention with marriage?
  - c. Do you think that couples who are about to get married see marriage with the same kind of seriousness as Jesus describes here (marriage is a creation of God where he joins two people with one flesh)?
  - d. If you are married, how does knowing that you and your spouse are one flesh influence the way you treat your spouse? Read Ephesians 5:28-31 for help.
2. Divorce happens due to hard hearts
  - a. Do you agree with Jesus' assessment that divorce is a result of people's hard hearts towards God? Where have you seen this played out in marriages?
  - b. How do you know your heart is getting hard towards the Lord and to your spouse? What do you do when you see that happening? Have you been in a relationship where you have remained hard hearted to the detriment of the relationship?
3. Divorce is permissible in certain circumstances
  - a. Do you think that a person who divorces their spouse because of sexual unfaithfulness commits sin? Why or why not?
  - b. What are your thoughts towards a person who chooses not to get a divorce when their spouse has been sexually unfaithful to them? Would you distinguish between a one-time event and numerous indiscretions?



- c. How does God's persistent love for you, despite your unfaithfulness, drive you forward in your love for your spouse?

**Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

**Benediction** - 2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."*