

# MARK

## READ MARK 10:1-12

### Pursue

**Leader Note:** *You likely have men and women who have been impacted by divorce in your group. Some may be struggling today with desiring a divorce, some may be experiencing guilt, shame, confusion, or regret about a divorce, and others may have been impacted by a divorce in their family. Take time before discussion time to acknowledge this and to encourage group members to be mindful of others as they share and discuss.*

In this week's text, Mark 10:1-12, the Pharisees attempt to test and trap Jesus, asking him about divorce. Jesus asks them to recall the command of God for marriage but the Pharisees instead describe the allowance God made for divorce - Jesus describes that this allowance was because of the hardness of man's heart. This provision protected the vulnerable, often women, who would be cast aside (and in danger) frivolously.

- **Like the Pharisees, we are often tempted to minimize and/or justify our earthly desires and sin. Is there an area of desire, temptation, or sin you are facing that you find yourself minimizing or justifying?**
  - **What step of obedience is God calling you to in this area?**
  - **How can we, the group, help you?**

Jesus then goes on to describe the original design of marriage by God in the creation narrative (v.6-8) ending with, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

- **Read Mark 2:18-20**
- **Read Romans 8:35-39**
- **Read Revelation 19:6-9**
  - While these verses primarily discuss earthly marriage and divorce. We are reminded that for those who love Jesus, His church, He is our bridegroom, in whose love we can never be separated from, and with whom we will join in eternity. **How does remembering these truths about Jesus and about His bride encourage and strengthen your faith? How does it help you fight the temptations and sins we shared earlier?**

### Practice Care for One Another

*"That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same **care for one another.**" (1 Corinthians 12:25)*

To this day, divorce remains a difficult and stigmatized topic of discussion both within and outside the church. As we stated above, there are likely members of your group who have been directly impacted by divorce. Spend time checking in on group members, both those who have experienced it and those who may be struggling to understand what God teaches about divorce and why. Below are some basic check-in questions (feel free to add your own):

- How does the topic of divorce hit you?
- Was there anything about this topic or sermon that you wrestled with?
- If you have walked through or are currently walking through a divorce, how are you doing? How can we care for you?

As the group shares and listens, ask the Spirit to remind you of helpful scripture to encourage them, to help you think of additional questions you might ask. Pray for one another!!

## **Proclaim**

This week we were reminded of God's good design in marriage and how this earthly picture of marriage is but a shadow of the true marriage of Christ and His Church. There are those in your life who do not have the joy, peace, and comfort that comes in knowing, loving, trusting, and following Jesus. Earlier in this study we asked each group member to pick one person they were going to pursue with the gospel in prayer, sharing the gospel, sharing a testimony of God's work in them, etc. Check back in on these relationships. What is one step they could take this week towards this person?