

**LifeGroup Study Sheet**

September 24th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 34)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with, or connect with?

**Introduction**

If you are married, share a funny story from your first year of marriage. If you could go back in time and speak with the former version of yourself, what would you tell yourself?

**Digging In**

**Question 1: Read Mark 10:6-9.** Jesus gives us a clear understanding of the definition of marriage. Jesus says, "God made them male and female... the two will become one flesh." Jesus is quoting from **Genesis 2:24**. What does this teach us about the sacredness of marriage? What about God's design for the earthly permanence of marriage? What about the intimacy of marriage?

**Question 2: Read Mark 10:1-5.** Jesus teaches about the topic of divorce and teaches that the underlying issue around divorce is about a "hardness of heart" (v.5). Pastor Jeff used the phrase, "divorce is a result of sin, but not all divorces are sinful. **Read Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:8-9, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16** to discuss what this phrase means. What conclusions did you come to from God's word?

**Question 3: Read Ephesians 5:25-33 and Revelation 19:6-9.** How does marriage reflect the relationship that we have with God? How does the Gospel help you understand and apply the teachings about divorce from Jesus in Mark 10? How do these passages reflect the character of God through marriage and why God "hates divorce." (Malachi 2:16)

**Take it Home - Application**

For Married:

- Are you willing to fight for your marriage?
- Have you thanked God for your marriage?
- Do you need to repent or turn from mistrust of God within your marriage?

For Divorced:

- Have you grieved your loss?
- Have you considered and prayed for restoration of your marriage?
- Are you letting God's grace and forgiveness heal you?

**Praise / Prayer Requests**

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?