

BIG IDEA

The pain of divorce is never private and personal; all involved share the suffering.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Has your life been impacted by divorce? Explain to the group the effects of divorce on your life and how that experience has shaped you to be who you are today.

As the leader, you will need to make it very clear to everyone that this week is **NOT** just for people who have been divorced. Anyone who has experienced it in some capacity can off valuable insight into the effects of divorce.

Read Matthew 19:3-9. Based on what you remember about Cal's message; why did the Pharisees ask Jesus this no-win question? What do you notice about the way Jesus handles their trap?

Remember that there were two prevailing interpretations on divorce: the Shammai believe that fornication was the only reason for divorce and Hillel believe that you could divorce for almost any reason.

Think about this quote from Cal, "Marriage has always been used as a metaphor for our relationship with God." Does this change your view on the importance of marriage and if so, how?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. How would you explain this passage in your own words? How does Paul's teaching challenge the double standard of this time regarding men, women, and divorce?

Remember that only men could divorce in the marriage. Women were not allowed to initiate the divorce process.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4. What was your initial reaction to reading Israel's ancient law on divorce?

Why is it important to remember that *God is for us* when discussing biblical truths that run counter to the opinions of popular culture?

Develop a theory as to why contempt is the #1 cause of divorce.





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Which of the following action steps is God asking you to take?

- Reject the “right person” myth
- Seal up the back door
- Learn to fight...fairly
- Drop all contempt
- Address problems sooner rather than later
- Attend church together
- Get help before hope dissipates

This would be an excellent time to ask your group to circle 1 or 2 action steps to work on this week and then keep everyone accountable next time you meet by asking what they did differently in their marriage. Celebrate with anyone who takes positive steps in the right directions and maybe offer guidance to people who might be “pushing back.”

