



Here Comes Trouble - Week 1 Divorce - Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts:

- **Quickly share one thing you are grateful to God for today.**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs and the message? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Revisit the scripture passage where religious leaders tried to trap Jesus in a response to a divisive topic and Jesus' response. (Keep in mind some of the context Eddie shared, including that women and children had fewer rights and protections culturally.) **Read Matthew 19:1-12.** Have someone read the passages out loud if you're in a group. Try to imagine the scene in your mind—including details such as what you hear and see, what emotions are present, etc.
 - What do you notice about the various people in this scene?
 - What do you notice about Jesus?
 - Is there a word or phrase that stands out from this passage?
- Jesus pointed back to the beginning of scripture in his response about divorce and marriage (Matthew 19:4-5). Eddie shared that God is the third party in a marriage and God's part is to unite the two people and make them one. And when God makes two people one, no one should presume to separate them.
 - How does it change your perspective to remember that God is a part of a marriage?
 - What are some practical ways that we can honor marriage (our own and others')?
- Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce is consistent with how Jesus raised the bar for every part of our lives. **How do you sense Jesus calling you up to a higher standard?**
- Eddie shared, "If you've fallen short of something Jesus wants, confess it and accept his cleansing." This applies to all of us. Is there anything you have not yet confessed to God and received his forgiveness for? **Consider sharing with a trusted friend—asking them to listen and pray with you to receive God's love and mercy.**

- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Dealing with Difficulties and Disappointments -

<https://www.wschurch.org/seriesresources>

Life is full of challenges and disappointments, but hope and healing are possible. We have collected staff selected resources for our *Here Comes Trouble* teaching series to help you learn and grow—even in difficult circumstances. You'll find our digital resource, Dealing with Difficulties and Disappointments, which offers some simple, practical steps, using the link above. There's also a way you can reach out to talk to someone for care and support. Be sure to check back each week for new resources to go along with each message.

Message Main Points & Scripture:

- **People are waiting longer to get married.**
- **fear of divorce**
- Matthew 19:2 – “Large crowds followed him...”
- Matthew 19:3 – “Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: ‘Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?’”
- Matthew 19:4-6 - “Haven't you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”
- **We are not discussing divorce to crank up the guilt.**
- **God said he hates divorce in the same way many people say they hate cancer.**
- **First, divorce is sometimes necessary, but always painful.**
- **It is not always a sin to divorce, but divorce always occurs because of sin.**
- **God often brings good out of divorce, but that doesn't make divorce good.**
- Matthew 19:8 - Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”
- **Marriage is a covenant, not a contract.**
- **No one should attempt to separate people whom God has brought together.**
- Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”
- **I should not dishonor my marriage or anyone else's.**
- 1 Samuel 3:9 - “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”
- Matthew 19:10 - “Maybe it is better not to marry!”
- **A married person is someone with a new identity.**
- Matthew 19:12 - “Let anyone accept this who can.”
- **Single people are not missing something – rather, they possess a unique capacity that many lack.**
- **Replace romantic ideas about marriage with a biblical vision of marriage.**

- **Get help before your marriage is in a desperate place.**
- **Text the word GROW to 217217 for a link to resources.**
- Proverbs 12:15 – “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”
- **Don’t forget about separation.**
- **If you’ve fallen short of something Jesus wants, confess it and accept his cleansing.**
- 1 John 1:9-10 – “If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.”