January 7, 2024

#### WHEN TWO BECOME ONE

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 10:1-12



#### PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

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Getting up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.

2 Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. 3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. 7 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, 8 and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

10 In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. 11 And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; 12 and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."





@waysidechapelsa

#### **REFLECT/CONNECT**

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

In what way	ys were y	ou encourage	ed during	the Christmas	season?

• How does secular culture typically view marriage? How would it define marriage?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

#### **GROW IN THE WORD**

- O1. While teaching the crowds, the Pharisees came up to test Jesus asking him about divorce. Jesus described Moses' allowance for divorce as a God-given concession due to their hard-heartedness. Jesus then affirmed the permanence of marriage and referenced God's original intention in creation (v. 1-9).
  - What was the intention behind the Pharisees' questions about divorce? Consider some of the previous context in Mark 3:2, 6; Mark 6:16-19.

### **GROW IN THE WORD**

<ul> <li>How would you summarize Jesus' view on divorce and marriage?</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>In what ways does Jesus' view on marriage contrast with cultural or societal views of marriage? Refer back to the reflection question above.</li> </ul>
<b>02.</b> In a private setting, Jesus' disciples asked him again about marriage and divorce. Jesus answered and said to them that if either a husband or wife divorced his or her spouse, and then remarried, then the husband or wife would be committing adultery (v. 10-12).
• What is Jesus' standard for marital commitment and fidelity based on his reply to the disciples? See also Malachi 2:16; Hebrews 13:4. Compare this passage with Matthew 5:32 19:9.



#### **GROW IN THE WORD**

•	How can believers support and encourag	e couples so	o that they	can honor	marriage	and the
	marital commitment?					

• In what ways does Jesus' teaching on marriage in this chapter challenge, shape, or inform your view of marriage?

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sundays | January 14 - Mar 10 | 11 am

Would you like to learn how to manage your money wisely? Join us for this nine-week class to learn biblical and practical steps to gain freedom from debt, stress, and worry through the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program. Register online today!

#### **WORSHIP NIGHT**

January 10 | 7 - 8 pm | Worship Center

We believe worship is an essential part of the believer's life and are excited to begin the New Year with a night focused on worship and prayer. All are invited to join us as we refocus our hearts and minds on Jesus in community through worship.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

## CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Discuss some highs and lows you had over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Refer to the first question in the Reflect/Connect section of the passage guide.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 1-2 questions from each section. Pick questions that stand out to you, or that you believe would be most helpful for your group.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss. Balance discussion between questions about the text and personal application questions.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Discuss the last or second to last question of the passage guide. Encourage your group to discuss ways to actively apply the passage.
- Close group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.