

Home Group Study Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Pray together as you begin your discussion that God would give you discernment and open hearts as you discuss one of the most painful realities of family life...the reality that marriage sometimes fails. Pray for a safe environment for people to honestly share their experiences.
2. We are not going to debate (this week) all the questions about divorce and remarriage and what makes divorce okay in some situations but not okay in others....leave that debate for another time....and focus instead on the reality that all of us have been affected to some degree. Now we must respond...
3. For those who are comfortable, share around the room how you have been affected by divorce. Don't spend a huge amount of time getting into the details, but just highlight how divorce has or has not touched your life through your personal and extended relationships.
4. What did you learn as a child about marriage and divorce? Was it a HUGE taboo or was it more of an accepted reality of our culture? How did the church affect your views of divorced people?
5. If you have gone through a divorce, can you simply state whether or not the church was a help or a hindrance to you. Don't get into too many details, but just let the group know what your experience was in general....does the church know how to handle the break-up of a family?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

6. Read John 4:1-26. Jesus' longest recorded conversation with a divorced person. Just briefly, how would you describe Jesus' interaction with this woman? What attitudes did He express? What values did He affirm?
7. Read Malachi 2:13-16 and couple it with Jeremiah 3:6-10. Why could God say with such passion that He "hated" divorce? How does it affect you when you think that God is "divorced"?
8. The Old Testament law provided a woman the right of obtaining a certificate of divorce if her husband walked out. It was done to protect her from poverty, slavery, or prostitution....How do you feel the church of today can, is, or has provided "safety" to those whose marriages have failed?
9. Broaden your discussion to the issue of brokenness and healing. Read Isaiah 61:1-3 and Isaiah 42:1-3. Talk about the tenderness Jesus expressed to hurting people. How can we better support the brokenhearted today?
10. Jesus was most direct and harsh with people whose hearts were hard, and was most tender with those who were contrite. How do we walk the tight-rope of up-holding the biblical ideal regarding marriage, challenging those who are rebellious or stubborn, yet supporting those who are in pain?

Taking It Home (Application)

11. If we accomplished nothing else this week, I hope we raised the awareness of our need to learn HOW to respond to hurting people. Ask yourself some direct questions about how you have viewed divorce. Why have we made it the "unpardonable sin"....or why does it at least SEEM that we have?
12. Pray for the many adults and children who are in pain right now, due to a family break-down. Pray that God would allow WPC to become a safe place where they can find comfort, healing, strength, and hope that there can indeed be life after the storm.

Picture Perfect?

Bible messages about topics that matter to all of us...

If we are going to reach out with the love of Jesus to the community around us we will not be able to avoid the topic of divorce. All of us have been affected either directly or indirectly by the break down of the family, and we desperately need to understand HOW to respond to a broken, hurting world. Unfortunately, a marriage failure often brings a "double whammy" in that there is first the very real pain of the breakup, and secondly, an equally great pain that the church does not know how to respond. May God give us grace to learn...

Life After the Storm...

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit..."