

***Kingdom Rising***  
**“Swimming Upstream”**

**GETTING STARTED**

ICE BREAKER: What is your most memorable swimming experience?

KEY THOUGHT: ***Following Jesus requires swimming upstream***

**GETTING THE POINT**

Read Mark 9:42-50

1. Looking back to (9:33-41), what two wrong attitudes might prompt a younger believer to sin?
2. What words or phrases in verses 42-50 highlight the seriousness of sin?
3. What positive motivation to avoid sin is found in verse 50?

Read Mark 10:1-12

4. What is wrong (backwards) about the Pharisees' question in verse 2?
5. How, specifically, does Jesus appeal to the authority of God over the authority of Moses?
6. What words or phrases in these verses highlight the seriousness of marriage?

**GETTING DEEPER**

Read Ezekiel 36:26

1. How do both sin and divorce relate to our hearts?
2. What is the necessary work related to our hearts that only God can do?

**GETTING PERSONAL**

1. Where in your life (diet, exercise, work, relationships, other) do you find it easy to justify something that is not the best because you see so many other people doing it?
2. When have you known someone (could be yourself) to take a serious step to fight sin?
3. On a scale of 1 (relationship that can be terminated when no longer useful) to 10 (sacred covenant in God's eyes that cannot be dissolved), what is your personal view of marriage?
4. From Jesus' quotes of Genesis, what is most compelling to you about the sacredness and permanence of marriage?
5. Whatever your marital status, what step can you take to respect a marriage near you?

**PRAY...**

*that as followers of Jesus, we will take seriously what God takes seriously.*