

The Jesus Way

DISCUSSION GUIDE | February 15, 2026

BIG IDEA

Jesus invites His followers into the tension between the real and the ideal.

Message title: The Real and the Ideal

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-8 NIV

Jesus confronted the casual injustice of divorce in His world while pointing His followers back to God's original vision for marriage. Rather than resolving the tension between the ideal and the real, Jesus asks us to carry it by honoring a high view of marriage while extending compassion and grace to those whose experience divorce.

1. *What were you taught about divorce growing up? How have your views changed over time?*

2. *Jesus said divorce exists because of “hardness of heart.” What does hardness of heart look like in everyday relationships (not just in marriage)?*

3. *Do you tend to be someone who leans toward grace or truth? Why do you think this is the case?*

4. *Where might you be confusing what is permitted with what is ideal in your life?*

5. *Why is it important for the Church to communicate both a high standard for marriage and deep grace for those who have experienced divorce?*

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Identify one area of your life where you've quietly lowered the standard in order to feel more comfortable.