



SESSION

6

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

*A BREAKUP THAT
HURTS EVERYONE,
INCLUDING GOD*

INTRODUCTION

Everyone has an opinion about when divorce is justified or not. Sometimes even Christians seem reluctant to consult Scripture regarding the issue of divorce and remarriage. But only one thing matters: what Jesus said about marriage and divorce. So we begin this session by listening to His words.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

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Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

—Mark 10:2-9

You might also want to read:

Luke 16:18

1 Corinthians 7:10

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why is the family structure of father, mother, and children the norm in cultures around the world? Why have alternative forms of family never really had staying power?

2. In what ways are healthy families beneficial for those who are part of them? For society as a whole?

3. What happens to society when a large number of families fall apart? Share a story or two of how this disintegration has affected your own family, friends, or community.

4. How does divorce in Christian homes affect what the world thinks of God?

5. How should we view modern efforts to redefine the family, or to have children be “owned by everyone”—that is, controlled by the state rather than by the parents? Tell about any struggle you’ve faced or freedoms you feel are threatened as a result.

6. How can parents in the church support one another in the task of parenting well?

**ONE
STEP**
I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

WRAP-UP

Breaking up is *not* hard to do; it's staying together that's a challenge. But doing so is vital, because every child needs and deserves both a mom and a dad, because a father is no substitute for a mother, and vice versa. Next session, we'll explore what's unique about mothers.