

# Week 3 LIFE Group Study – Jesus on Divorce

## Checking In

Welcome everyone back to this new series. Introduce any new members to the group. In a few words in what areas of your relationships are you well connected?

## Memory Verse

“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word and following its rules.”

Psalm 119:9

**NOTE: THERE IS NO GROUP VIDEO FOR THIS SERIES**

## ***FACILITATION FOR THE GROUP LEADER***

**NOTE:** *Use the following as a guide as you prepare to lead your group time. Use what is helpful for you to facilitate the discussion. Discovery questions and the group guide follow this material:*

People are struggling with their marriages at an alarming rate.

For some of you this topic is ripping your heart out. For you who are experiencing or have experienced this pain this talk opens deep wounds.

If you are divorced in the past and have taken it to God asking for His forgiveness, you are forgiven! God is a God of grace and restoration. Stop feeling guilty. I understand there are consequences to our decisions, and God's grace makes us right with him. The cross of Jesus paid it all!

Love is a decision based on commitment. Love does cause powerful feelings, and we confuse the commitment of love to the feelings of love.

Let us hear what Jesus says about divorce prevention and how we can live different lives.

### **How can we be protected?**

**“Give Honor to marriage and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.”**

**Hebrews 13:4**

**I must make a commitment to God's standards.**

**“Drink water from your own well, share your love only with your wife.”**

**Proverbs 5:15**

- Sex is for marriage.
- Divorce will not make your life better.
- Be safe, watch the flirting. Don't men bond visually, and women bond relationally? Be smart!

**Understand the consequences.**

**“But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul.”**

**Proverbs 6:32**

- Destroy your soul? Sexual sin seems to stain deeper than other sins because it is linked to the soul. We become flesh of one flesh and that is a bond for marriage.
- Choose to make your life a blessing.
- This does not mean that God cannot bless you or he will not bless you. He can turn anything for good. Be wise.

**Keep your marriage strong.**

**“The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband.”**

### **1Corinthians 7:3**

- Keep your romance alive, date, get away, gifts notes.
- Be best friends. No secrets, no worries.
- Connect spiritually. Connect, grow, serve, and share together.

**“Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace and enjoy the companionship of those who call on The Lord with pure hearts.”**

### **2 Timothy 2:22**

- Guard your thoughts. Take captive. Sin and temptation start with the thought.
- We rationalize our choices. We married too young, he/she has changed, I haven't loved her in a long time, he is not what I expected.
- Singles: most of this stuff applies to you!

### **What does God want me to do now?**

- If you are in an affair, stop, repent, and cut off all contact.
- Get into accountability and get your life back on track.
- If you are being tempted, run away. Pay attention to your thoughts and take them captive.

Conclusion: it is not how you start it is how you finish!

## **Discovery Questions**

- What inner quality is Jesus looking for in the subject of divorce and adultery?
- What commitments are key to divorce proofing your marriage? What is the “medicine” we must take to assure a long-lasting relationship?
- What qualities do you want and need to develop more fully right?

## Putting It Into Practice

Each week Pastor Scott will challenge you to put into practice what you are learning. These challenges will help you take the concepts we are learning deeper into your life and help you with your own personal hope. This week Pastor Scott challenges us to:

1. **Assess Your Relationship Together This Week**  
We all need tune-ups now and again. Where is a tune up needed, be honest, and what steps are you willing to take to address that growth step needed to get to the next level and further solidify your relationship?
2. **Select Some Scriptures to Rest Upon to Continue to Grow.**  
Together, pick out a few scriptures that speak to you where you are at in your relationship currently. Lean on them this week to encourage you to refresh and move ahead to new apex.

## Prayer Time

As a group spend some time in prayer together about these new studies are affecting your relationship. Anticipate that God shows you hope and encouragement each week. Pray each member of the group will grow personally through this study.

TIP: Use index cards to submit a prayer request for you. Of course, it is always valuable to pray for others (and there are other opportunities to do so) but in the moment make it personal in this first week. Exchange cards by gender so you may be prayed for throughout the week.