

## Family Worship Guide – Week 29

### MEMORIZE

Matthew 19:4-6 – He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his 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.”

### READ

Read Matthew 19:1-9.

Divorce is so prevalent in our culture, both outside the church and within. It is an extremely negative and detrimental result of sin in the world. God’s design for marriage found in Scripture is clearly for one man and one woman to covenant together for the entirety of their lives. However, just as sin distorts so much of what God designed, so it does with marriage, and divorce is the result. There are biblical allowances for divorce. However, there are not biblical mandates for divorce. God’s intention is for people to not separate what He has joined together through the covenant of marriage.

#### Questions:

What is God’s design for marriage?  
Why does the option of divorce even exist?  
How does God join people together in marriage?

**Bottom Line:** Divorce perverts God’s picture of the gospel and His design for marriage to be between one man and one woman.

### SING

Our understanding of God-honoring marriage, indeed a God-honoring life, can only come from Him, so we must look to His Word to see what He has designed for us. Aaron Keyes’ song, “Psalm 62”, is a wonderful reminder of the One who provides us with wisdom and instruction, the One we can trust above all else. Based on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Psalm, the lyrics of each verse begin in a similar way:

My soul finds rest in God alone  
My rock and my salvation

Find rest, my soul, in God alone  
Amid the world’s temptations

I’ll set my gaze on God alone  
And trust in Him completely

As you continue to worship, let this song be a prayer that God’s Word will always be your compass as you navigate life, married or not. Delight in the knowledge and teaching of the Lord, and praise Him for His good and perfect design.

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool

- Before you begin you will need to locate a puzzle.
- Read Matthew 19:4-6 with your preschooler.

- Explain to your preschooler that last week we learned from God’s Word, the Bible, about His plan for marriage. Remember, God planned for marriage to be a picture of His love for the church. God also planned for marriage to be between a man (the husband) and a woman (the wife). God designed marriages to be a picture of Christ’s love for us. Christ’s love for us is beautiful and good.
- Next, take out the puzzle. Scatter the pieces and explain to your preschooler that you are going to work together to put the puzzle pieces back together. Say, “Right now, this picture is not very good because all the pieces are separated, but if we join them together we can make the picture whole again. Do you think it will be good to make the picture whole again?”
- As you work together to complete the puzzle, explain to your child that the Bible says that when God calls a man and a woman to be married, they are joined together as a couple and become one. The Bible also says that when two people are married before God, then they are not to be separated by anything. It’s not God’s plan for people to become separated or divorced. This does not please God. This is not good.
- After your puzzle is finished say, “Our pieces fit together and formed one picture. Now that all of our puzzle pieces are joined back together our picture is complete and beautiful. It is good. That’s just like God’s plan for marriage. God joins two people together and they become one in marriage. They love each other like Christ loves them. Together, they love Christ and follow Him. This is good.
- Pray and thank God for His love for us and His plan for marriage. Ask God to bless your marriage, and the marriages of your children.

### Children

- Grab a family photo either of your own family or another family (including dad, mom, and children).
- Show your child the photo and ask them to name each person (mom, dad, brother, sister, etc.) in the picture. Ask them what responsibilities each person has as a member of the family. Allow them to share.
- Ask them to share about some of their friends and what kind of families they come from – do they have a mom and dad, are their parents still married, etc.?
- Ask your child if they understand what divorce is. Explain that divorce is when two married people, a dad and a mom, decide that they no longer want to be married, and they break their marriage vow and no longer live together in the same home.
- Tell your child that it is important to know what God’s plan for marriage is since so many dads and moms are getting divorced. What does God think about this?
- Read through Matthew 19:1-9.
- Ask your child what these verses say about marriage. (God joins a man and woman together in marriage and they become connected forever, like they are one person.) Emphasize that God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman, and it is God who joins them together.
- Ask your child why God might have designed marriage this way. Allow them to share.
- Read verse 7 and 8 and ask your child what these verses tell us about divorce. Explain that divorce happens because sin destroys everything and makes our hearts hard, or selfish. Explain that when divorce happens it goes against God’s design for marriage, because when God joins two people in marriage, it is intended to last forever.
- Spend some time praying with your child, thanking God for his good plan for marriage, and praying for friends whose parents are no longer married, or who may be struggling in their marriages.

### Students

- **Intro**
  - Have you ever experienced something difficult?
  - Are there difficult situations that cause you to search for ways to avoid that happening to you?
  - Do you ever make claims like, “I will never do that”?
- **Transition**
  - We all experience things or see others experience things that we would rather avoid.
  - For many of us, we have seen or experienced the results of divorce.
  - As believers, what are we supposed to do?
- **Discussion**
  - For teens, there are two areas that we need to focus on when it comes to divorce.
    - First, if you have experienced hurt because of divorce, God wants to heal your hurt.
      - How has divorce affected your life or someone you know?
      - In what ways are kids are affected when parents get divorced?

- Second, allow Scripture to determine your beliefs about marriage and divorce.
  - What does culture say about marriage and divorce?
  - Now let's look at Matthew 19:1-9.
    - What truths do we learn from this passage?
    - How does Scripture differ from what culture says?
    - Are there any beliefs that you have about marriage or divorce that contradict God's Word?
    - What ways do we need to change our understanding?
    - How can this passage prepare you for the future if and when God calls you to pursue marriage?
- Divorce has widespread effects.
  - How can you care for and speak the truth of God's Word to someone you know who is or has been experiencing the effects of divorce?
  - How can you pray for your parents?