










Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce



Explore Jesus' powerful teachings on marriage, divorce, and God's heart for restoration and covenant in Matthew 19:1–12.



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Introduction

Marriage is a sacred covenant ordained by God, designed to mirror His steadfast love and faithfulness. In Matthew 19:1–12, Jesus addresses the delicate topic of marriage and divorce, revealing God's original intent and *His deep concern for restoration*.

Within these verses, Jesus emphasizes that marriage is not simply a social contract but a divine union established by God from the beginning of creation. He reminds us that **man's attempts to separate what God has joined** carry profound spiritual consequences. Yet, even in addressing the reality of human brokenness, Jesus shows compassion and offers hope.

As we journey through this Bible study plan, we will uncover the heart of God for marriage—highlighting *His desire for faithfulness, restoration, and mercy*. We will not only explore what makes a godly marriage but also how Jesus' teachings invite us into a deeper understanding of covenant relationship beyond just two people—to God Himself.

Through careful reflection of Scripture, prayer, and journaling, this week-long study will equip you to embrace God's perspective and find grace whether you are in a marriage, seeking one, or walking through the challenges of relational brokenness. May this study inspire confidence in God's plan for love, commitment, and restoration.





Day 1: God's Design for Marriage



Your Verse

Matthew 19:4-6 - 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female... Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Genesis 2:24 - 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.'*
- *Ephesians 5:31 - "'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.'"*



Devotional: Understanding God's Original Marriage Plan

Marriage is more than a contract—it's divine intention. Jesus points us back to the very beginning, to God's design in creation. Notice how He refers to Genesis, showing that marriage is foundational and sacred. The union of one man and one woman is a picture of unity, intimacy, and permanence.

This divine design underscores the commitment expected in a marriage covenant. It's about leaving previous attachments, cleaving to one's spouse, and becoming 'one flesh.' This foreshadows not only physical connection but spiritual and emotional unity.

Reflect on how this understanding impacts your view of marriage. It is God who initiates marriage, and He desires it to reflect His faithfulness toward us. Do we value marriage as a covenant that mirrors God's unwavering love? Today, invite God to reveal how His design invites us into deeper commitment and unity.



Reflect and Apply

1. How does seeing marriage as God's design affect the way I view my relationships?

2. In what ways can I honor the covenant nature of marriage in my own life?

3. What does 'one flesh' mean to me beyond the physical relationship?



Journaling Prompts

1. List ways God's creation of marriage reflects His character.

2. Write about a time you experienced or witnessed unity in a relationship.

3. Describe what a God-honoring marriage looks like in your life or community.



Day 1:  God's Design for Marriage

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the gift of marriage as a reflection of Your love and faithfulness. Help me to understand Your design and to honor the covenant You have established. Teach me to value unity, commitment, and intimacy as You intended. Strengthen relationships that need healing and guide me to reflect Your love in all relationships. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏❤️💍✨





Day 2: 💔 Addressing Human Brokenness: Divorce



Day 2: ❤️ Addressing Human Brokenness: Divorce

Your Verse

Matthew 19:7-8 - 'Why then,' they asked, 'did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?' Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Deuteronomy 24:1 - 'If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce...'*
- *Malachi 2:16 - 'I hate divorce,' says the LORD God of Israel...*



Day 2: ❤️ Addressing Human Brokenness: Divorce

Devotional: God's Compassion Amidst Brokenness

Divorce is a reality caused by hardened hearts. Jesus acknowledges the pain and brokenness that divorce highlights. While God's design is for lasting marriage, human sin has led to fractured relationships.

When questioned about the Mosaic law permitting divorce, Jesus points out this accommodation was due to the hardness of human hearts, not God's perfect will. This truth reminds us that *God is both holy and compassionate*—He hates divorce but also understands human weakness.

In moments of brokenness, God invites us to bring our hurts to Him. He offers restoration, healing, and hope beyond failure. Today, if you or someone you know has experienced divorce or relational pain, rest in the compassionate heart of God who longs to redeem and restore.



Reflect and Apply

1. How do I reconcile God's hatred of divorce with the reality of broken marriages?

2. In what areas might my heart be hardened and in need of softening?

3. How can God's compassion encourage those going through relational pain?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you experienced or observed God's compassion in painful times.

2. Reflect on where you might need to soften your heart toward others or God.

3. Consider how forgiveness and restoration play roles in healing broken relationships.



Day 2: ❤️ Addressing Human Brokenness: Divorce

Prayer for Today

Lord, it's hard to face the pain caused by brokenness and divorce. Yet, I thank You for Your compassionate heart that sees our struggles. Please soften my heart where it has grown hard, help me extend grace to myself and others, and lead me toward restoration and healing. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏❤️🌿





Day 3: ❤️ The Covenant Commitment



Your Verse

Matthew 19:9 – 'I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Malachi 2:14 – 'The LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her...'*
- *Hebrews 13:4 – 'Let marriage be held in honor among all... and the marriage bed kept pure...'*



Devotional: Understanding the Seriousness of Covenant

Marriage is a solemn covenant requiring faithfulness. Jesus' words highlight the sanctity of the marriage union and caution against breaking this covenant except in cases of sexual immorality.

This teaching reveals God's high regard for marital fidelity and *the consequences when the covenant is broken*. It calls for honesty, purity, and enduring commitment.

Reflect on what this means personally. The covenant is not simply a legal agreement but a spiritual bond witnessed by God. Faithfulness in marriage is a reflection of our faithfulness to God Himself.



Reflect and Apply

1. What does covenant faithfulness look like in my relationships?

2. How do I understand forgiveness and grace when covenant commitments fail?

3. How can I live out purity and honor in my relationships, married or single?



Journaling Prompts

1. Describe what commitment means to you in the context of marriage.

2. Write about an example of faithfulness that inspired you.

3. Consider how God's covenant faithfulness encourages your own.



Day 3: ❤️ The Covenant Commitment

Prayer for Today

God, I recognize marriage as a holy covenant You have established. Help me to honor this sacred bond with purity, faithfulness, and love. Where I have fallen short, grant healing and grace. Strengthen relationships to reflect Your covenant love. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏💍🛡️❤️





Day 4: Jesus' Call to Restoration



Day 4: 🕊️ Jesus' Call to Restoration

Your Verse

Matthew 19:11-12 - 'Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given... There are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 61:1 - 'The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me... to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.'*
- *2 Corinthians 12:9 - 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'*



Devotional: Embracing God's Grace in All Circumstances

Jesus acknowledges different callings and challenges within relationships. Not everyone is called to marriage, and some choose singleness or sacrifice for the kingdom's sake.

This passage invites us to embrace God's grace regardless of our marital status. Whether married, single, divorced, or widowed, God's restoration and purpose remain available.

God's Spirit brings freedom and healing to those weighed down by relational brokenness or unmet expectations. Trusting His grace enables us to find hope, purpose, and joy in every season of life.



Reflect and Apply

1. How do I perceive God's purpose in my current relational status?

2. What might it look like to embrace God's grace amid unmet desires or pain?

3. Am I open to God's unique calling for my life, even if it differs from cultural expectations?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about how God has brought healing in a difficult relationship.

2. Reflect on areas where you need to trust God's grace more fully.

3. Describe your current season and how God is working in it.



Day 4: 🕊️ Jesus' Call to Restoration

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Your grace that covers every situation. Help me to embrace Your calling and find restoration in You, whether in marriage or singlehood. Teach me to rely on Your strength and purpose for my life. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏 🕊️ 🌟 🌿





Day 5: Forgiveness and Healing



Day 5:  Forgiveness and Healing

Your Verse

Colossians 3:13 - 'Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Ephesians 4:32 - 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'*
- *Psalms 147:3 - 'He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.'*



Devotional: The Power of Forgiveness in Relationships

Forgiveness is essential for healing relationships. Whether in marriage or after divorce, God calls us to forgive as He forgave us. This doesn't minimize pain but opens the door to restoration and peace.

Holding onto bitterness only deepens wounds and hinders God's healing work. Forgiveness frees the heart and reflects God's mercy to those around us.

Today, commit to the hard but freeing path of forgiveness. Allow God to heal your broken heart and renew hope for restoration in your life and relationships.



Reflect and Apply

1. Are there any unforgiveness barriers in my heart that need God's help to release?

2. How can I extend forgiveness even when it's difficult?

3. What benefits might forgiveness bring in my own relationships?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from.

2. Reflect on how God has forgiven you and how that inspires you to forgive.

3. Describe what healing looks like after forgiveness in your experience or desire.



Day 5:  Forgiveness and Healing

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me to forgive as You have forgiven me. Heal my broken heart and remove any bitterness or pain that holds me back. Fill me with Your peace and grace to restore relationships and walk in freedom. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Day 6: 💛 God's Heart for Restoration



Day 6: 🧡 God's Heart for Restoration

Your Verse

Joel 2:25 – 'I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Jeremiah 30:17 – 'I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the LORD.*
- *Psalms 51:12 – 'Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.'*



Day 6: 🧡 God's Heart for Restoration

Devotional: Hope in God's Restorative Power

God promises restoration even after loss and brokenness. Like promises in Joel and Jeremiah, God can restore what has been lost, healing wounds of the heart and giving new life.

Whatever struggles or relational failures you face, God's restorative power is bigger than your pain. He is able to remake marriages, rebuild trust, and renew joy in His salvation.

Place your hope in Him today, knowing restoration is possible through His grace and strength.



Reflect and Apply

1. What areas of my life or relationships need God's restoration?

2. How can I actively trust and wait on God's timing for healing?

3. In what ways have I experienced God's restoration before?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write a letter to God expressing your desire for restoration.

2. Reflect on past experiences where God has restored you or someone you know.

3. List practical steps you can take to partner with God in restoration.



Day 6: 🧡 God's Heart for Restoration

Prayer for Today

Lord, I bring my brokenness and losses before You. Thank You for Your promise to restore and heal. Help me to trust Your timing and power to renew what is broken. Fill me with hope and joy as I walk the path of restoration. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🙏🌅🌿🌟





Day 7: ✨ Living God's Covenant Love



Day 7: ✨ Living God's Covenant Love

Your Verse

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - 'Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 15:12 - 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.'*
- *Romans 12:10 - 'Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.'*



Day 7: ✨ Living God's Covenant Love

Devotional: Reflecting God's Love in Marriage and Life

God's covenant love is the foundation for all relationships. The love described in 1 Corinthians mirrors God's faithful, patient, and persevering nature.

Jesus commands us to love others as He has loved us—selflessly and sacrificially. In marriage and beyond, living out this love transforms relationships and reflects God's glory.

As this study concludes, commit to embodying God's covenant love daily. Let patience, kindness, trust, hope, and perseverance shape your heart and actions toward others.



Reflect and Apply

1. How can I better reflect God's covenant love in my relationships?

2. What attitudes or behaviors do I need to change to love more like Jesus?

3. In what ways can love become a healing force in difficult relationships?



Journaling Prompts

1. Describe practical ways you can show patient and kind love today.

2. Write about someone who inspires you to love better.

3. Set personal goals to grow in God's covenant love.



Day 7: ✨ Living God's Covenant Love

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for showing us perfect love. Help me to embody Your covenant love with patience, kindness, and perseverance. Empower me to reflect Your heart in all my relationships, bringing healing and honor to You. In Your name, Amen. 🙏❤️✨🌿





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