



# HARD QUESTION: DIVORCE

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JUNE 18, 2017

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** When you look across our culture, commitment seems to be at an all-time low, and the poster child for the problem is marriage.

God designed marriage to bless us, and even if it ends,  
His desire for us is peace and healing.

## 2. BIBLE VERSE

God's plan for families has always been committed relationships for life. Look for those dynamics in the following verses:

### Matthew 19:5-6 [ESV]

*"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."*

**Q. God refers to marriage as a covenant - in what ways is marriage similar to His covenant with us?**

### 1 Corinthians 7:15 [NIV]

*"But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace."*

## 3. APPLICATION

It takes 2 people to stay in a relationship, and sometimes, no matter how hard you try, things come to an end. Even then, we're called to live in peace and to forgive, so everyone can heal and move forward in life.



**Q. God permits divorce in some cases, but is that ever His preference?**

**Q. Have you ever been hurt by a divorce? If so, how hard was it for you to offer forgiveness? Is there someone you still need to forgive?**



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for blessing humanity with marriage. Ask Him to help you to be faithful and support marriage - not only in your life, but in the lives of those around you.



# FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES

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### 1. ACTIVITY: "I Will Tell My Friends About Jesus!"

Tell your children to imagine that they're sick—so sick, in fact, that without help, they'll die.

Ask them the following questions: How do you think you'd feel emotionally if you were this sick?

What do you think you'd do to try to get better?

### 2. BIBLE VERSE

Mark 16:15 & Romans 10:13

*"Go into all the world and preach the good news..."*



Tell your children that someone told them about a new cure for their illness. Have them imagine that they've undergone treatment and now they're perfectly healthy.

Ask them the following questions:

Q. How would you feel emotionally once you were healed?

Q. How would you feel toward the person who told you about the cure?

Q. How would you feel toward the person who actually found the cure?

Q. How would you feel if you found out there was a cure and a friend had known about it but didn't tell you?

### 3. APPLICATION

Next, have your children imagine that a friend has come to them describing some symptoms that are very similar to the ones they had. After listening to this friend for awhile, they realize that he has the same disease that they did.

Talk about the following questions:

Q. Would you tell your friend about the cure? Why? What might happen to your friend if you don't tell him about the cure?

Q. Can you force the person to undergo the treatment and take the medicine that will cure him?



Tell your children that all people have a disease that will eventually kill them: sin. Sin is a disease that everyone is born with, and unless we seek the "cure"—Jesus—we will die an eternal death and be separated from God and everything that's good.



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Tell your children that thinking about sin as a fatal disease will help them see the importance of telling others about Jesus. Our job is to tell them about Jesus and show them Christ's love, so they'll know about the cure. Pray with your family, asking God to open your eyes to the people around you who need to know about Him.