

## Where's the Love

### Small Group Questions: Part 2: Marriage

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#### Read

Romans 7:18–19, 8:1–2 and 28; Genesis 2:18–25; Matthew 19:3–8; Malachi 2:16; Hebrews 13:4; and Philippians 3:13–14

#### Reflect

In Matthew 19, some Pharisees test Jesus by asking him whether it is lawful to divorce one's wife for any reason. Jesus reminds them, "...What God has joined together, let no man separate." They then ask why Moses said they could give a wife a certificate of divorce. Jesus tells them it was due to their hardness of heart—but that for anything but sexuality immorality, whoever divorces and marries another commits adultery. How has God revealed himself in your marriage even when things are difficult?

Pastor Josh Walters highlights ways we can have an all-in marriage when we...

1. Abandon the exit strategy.
  - a. In what ways might you be keeping in reserve an exit strategy for your marriage?
  - b. What do you think about the now-common term "starter marriage"?
  - c. When have you elevated your own wants or happiness above what's best for your marriage?
    - i. In what ways are you not trusting or leaning on God to help you through hard issues?
  - d. How important is it for you to gain God's favor in your marriage? Do you believe he has your best interests at heart, and those you love?
  - e. Would you say you're "all-in"?
2. Have a commitment strategy.
  - a. Have you identified weaknesses or issues you've brought into the marriage and need to address together?
  - b. Have you created a commitment strategy?
    - i. What are three areas of contention in your marriage?
    - ii. Establish a plan for each. When \_\_\_\_\_ comes up, I'm going to try to \_\_\_\_\_. We're going to try to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iii. What Bible verses could help encourage you in dealing with each specific issue?
  - c. How has the enemy tried to break into your marriage?
  - d. What will you do regularly to help combat the enemy? Do you pray together? Read the Bible together? Go on date nights? Develop and implement family priorities together? Go to counseling? Work hard on communication? Other?
  - e. What problem might you be ignoring, hoping it will just work itself out?
  - f. What does God need to heal, redeem, or restore in your life?
3. Dream about finishing together.
  - a. How do you picture your marriage in the future? Write down the vision.
  - b. Does your vision involve God? How can your marriage become more of a picture of the Gospel?
  - c. How might your vision and plans for your marriage have drifted? How will you reestablish it?
  - d. What advice can you offer other couples?
  - e. What step of faith do you need to take in your marriage right now?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?