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# NEVER 2 READ<sup>A</sup> BIBLE VERSE\*

*They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."*  
**Matthew 19:3-9**

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\*Without Context.

## 9. Divorce

### TODAY'S VERSES:

Matthew 19:3-9  
Deuteronomy 24:1  
1 Corinthians 7:10-15  
Matthew 19:9

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### RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

While divorce is painful and not God's original design, it is not an unforgivable sin. In Matthew 19 marriage is described as a covenant relationship where "two become one flesh" rather than a consumer relationship that can be easily terminated. God's purpose in marriage is not happiness but holiness – teaching us to love like Christ loves us, even when it's difficult. There is hope for those who have experienced divorce; God still offers grace and redemption. God can redeem even the most broken situations. God's love is unconditional and the cross provides both forgiveness for sins committed and healing for sins suffered.

- How does viewing marriage as a "covenant" rather than a "consumer relationship" change our understanding of commitment and conflict resolution in relationships?
- What does it mean to have a hardened heart in a relationship, and how can we recognize this in ourselves?
- How do you reconcile the tension between God's design for lifelong marriage and the reality that some situations (abuse, adultery) may require divorce for safety and well-being?
- What does it mean that God's purpose in marriage is to make us "holy" rather than "happy"? How might this perspective change how we approach marital difficulties?
- What are the boundaries between forgiveness and enabling harmful behavior?
- How do you process the idea that "we always marry the wrong person because we are sinners"? What implications does this have for realistic expectations in marriage?
- What role should church community play in supporting marriages in crisis? How would your group support those who are struggling?
- How does the example of David and Bathsheba challenge or comfort your understanding of God's ability to redeem broken relationships and situations?
- How do we distinguish between legitimate covenant-breaking situations and temporary difficulties that might be worked through with help and time?