DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 19:1–12

Read through the passage together before you begin.

1. The beginning of Matt 19 marks a movement in the book. Look for other spots in the gospel that use similar language (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 26:1). And then look ahead. Where is Jesus headed, and why is that important?
2. The Pharisees are asking a controversial question in verse 3 (see Deut 24:1–4). Why was it controversial then? Why is it controversial today?
3. Jesus answers by looking back to the original design of marriage in Gen 1–2. What are some of the principles he lays out? Why is it important to keep those in mind in answering the original question?
4. The reason divorce enters is due to 'hardness of heart'. What do you think that means? Is divorce always the result of sin? Is it always the sin of both people?
5. Jesus gives one exception for divorce. And Paul provides another in 1 Cor 7:15. How should we understand these to apply today?
6. How should the church respond to those who are in or have gone through a divorce? How can we bring both grace and truth to the situation?
7. How do we view singleness in the church? How does that show up? How should Jesus' discussion of it (vv. 10–12) shape the way we view it and treat people who are single?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray for the marriages in your group and church, for those who have walked through divorce, and for those who are single — that each would find their place and purpose in Christ.