



## **Leader Notes Marriage and Divorce**

**Caution:** This is a challenging discussion. With half of all marriages ending in divorce, you will almost certainly have group members who have already experienced the pain of divorce. You may want to look quickly over the whole study and then begin your discussion.

1. Remember that the purpose of the Connect question is to loosen up the group.

### **Watch the video after question 2**

2. Be sure and carefully look over the "Context" section. Although the Malachi passage is often quoted as the key to understanding God's attitude about divorce...it's not that simple. Malachi connects the fact that God paid no attention to their sacrifices and worship because of their sinful attitude toward divorce.
3. Depending on who you have in your group, you will get a variety of responses to this question. Some of the answers will be better connected with the scripture passage.
4. Some of your group members may be surprised that what God says is so cut and dried.
5. You have to read it carefully, but you should notice that God himself has gone through a divorce!

\*The statement from Jay E. Adams is included because it gives an important clarification.

6. Depending on your group, you may want to read the scriptures aloud that are cited in this question. Note that although slander and selfishness are included in the list of grievous sins...divorce is not. This is not to say that divorce isn't serious. Simply that it is not unforgivable.
7. Again, God loves everyone. There is nothing we can do to cause God to stop loving us.
8. If God takes vows so seriously we ought to as well.
9. Repeated phrases were often used for emphasis (and still are today).
10. Possible answers would be to avoid intimacy with members of the opposite sex (note the instructions for question 11), spend time with your spouse, and work on developing a closer relationship with your spouse.
11. Sub-grouping will help this exercise. Your group may not want to do it. Don't feel like you have to do this tonight. Be sensitive to the feelings of your group members. You may want to prepare by asking someone else in your group to help guide a few. That will help smooth the way.