

# Community Group

Week of January 8

**Matthew 19:3-12**

Today's big idea: Having healthy relationships means starting or restarting from a spiritually healthy place.

- What is the best piece of relationship advice you have learned either personally or from others?
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.

## Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Jesus teaching on marriage.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Matthew 19:3-12 in the Bible.
  
- What was the relational end that the pharisees were concerned about?
- What reasons did Jesus give for the value of marriage?
- How optimistic were the disciples about marriage?

## Going Deeper

- Jesus's first basis for marriage was Scripture. What are different ways in which you could ensure that Scripture is at the heart of your marriage?
- Jesus warned against a hardened heart. How can you keep your heart open to the leading of God and how can you influence your spouse in this way too?
- How do these principles apply to being single and dating as well?
- Close your time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



[hfcog.org](http://hfcog.org)

## **COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES**

### **Confidentiality**

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

### **Don't Rescue & Don't Fix**

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

### **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

### **Use Humor Responsibly**

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

### **Give Everyone a Chance to Share**

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

### **Use "I" Statements**

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

### **Fight for Relationship**

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.