

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## 1 CORINTHIANS: BEING GOD'S PEOPLE

The Church is a complex and often messy place with people at different stages in their walk with Jesus. Seeing every part of life (individually and together) through the Gospel lens of a whole new life in Christ sounds good in theory, but in reality, living what you say you believe is a lifelong process... This is a letter that relates to each of us grappling with how to be God's people, as well as to us as a church family grappling with how to be a community that practices being God's people together, living in the tension between the Biblical text and our context today.



### WHEN YOU MEET:

Fortnight starting Sunday 15 October

**TESTIMONY TIME:** Have one person in the group share what they've been learning about Jesus.

**PRAY:** Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. our Mission Partners and those they are reaching)

**NOTE:** *There are many different questions this week relating to a few different Bible passages (see over the page, too), as well as some questions specific to young adults. Have a look at all of them and choose 2-3 to discuss.*

**READ:** Genesis 2:20b-25 and Matthew 19:4-6

### DISCUSS:

1. What does Jesus affirm in Matthew 19 about the nature of marriage? What might be the implications of each of the things Jesus affirms for how His followers see marriage?
2. How long did it take for the 'honeymoon' to end in your marriage, and can you share one or two ways you knew it had? Keep this light and humorous.
3. Discuss the two quotes Scott made by Tim Keller. Do they resonate with you, and why?
  - > "If your marriage is weak and in every other way you are strong you move into world into weakness. But if your marriage is strong and every part of your world is weak you move out into your world in strength."
  - > "If your spouse says you are beautiful and everyone else says you are ugly - you are beautiful. If your spouse says you are ugly and everyone else says you are beautiful, you are ugly."
4. For marrieds, what are your top three pieces of advice to a young couple about how to have a happy and resilient marriage for life?

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

**DISCUSS:**

1. Scott described several kinds of mixed marriages (where one spouse was a disciple and the other not). Paul wants those disciples in mixed marriages to hang in the marriage for what reasons?
2. On what basis can a disciple let go of their marriage obligations? (see verse 15 also in the Matthew 19 passage)
3. God's ideal is that we stay in our marriages, but in reality, some marriages need to end and when they do, there should be no shame or feeling like this is an unforgivable sin to God. How can we best care for people going through or post a divorce?

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS:**

1. How do you know if someone is 'the one'? What do you think would be some wise principles around making such a big decision to marry someone? How do you invite Jesus into the process?
2. Scott shared a bunch of stats around divorce:
  - > 30% of first-time marriages end in divorce, and 60% of second-time marriages.
  - > Median age of people getting married is 27 for women and 30 for men, and obtaining a divorce is 43 and 46 years - average marriage divorces at 12 years.
  - > 27% of people reported communication problems, 21% reported a loss of connection, 20% reported trust issues or infidelity.Have you or someone close to you come from a family where their parents have divorced? How has that impacted you and your own feelings of getting married one day?

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

1. What especially challenges or inspires you in this passage and why? .
2. What does this passage reveal about being God's people in Australia today?
3. What does this passage say about finding and sustaining unity as God's people?
4. What does this passage reveal about identity or purpose as God's people?
5. How does this passage lead you to a greater reliance on the Holy Spirit?

**PRAY:** Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments, afterwards, for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>