



GROUP GUIDE – *Marvelous Design* - Week 1

ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE READING: (5-10 minutes) Open your Bibles and read **Mark 10:1-9** together, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then take a few moments to quietly reflect.

¹ And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

² And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” ⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,’ ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

OBSERVATION: (10 minutes)

- Make some general observations about Jesus’ view of God’s design for marriage.
- What did Jesus mean by saying “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife?”
- What does Jesus mean by “the two will become one flesh?”

REFLECTIONS: (10 minutes)

- How does the world’s view of marriage differ from God’s design for marriage?
- Do the people you know think of and treat marriage as something “God has joined together”?

DISCUSSION: (20 minutes)

- Why do you think the world is becoming so hostile to the biblical view of marriage? (try to come at this from a couple of different angles)
- What are some good and some bad ways Christians represent Jesus, and God’s design for marriage, to the world? (“... full of grace and truth”)

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)

- Are you confident God has clearly given us His design for marriage?
- What is one area of your life, related to this discussion, that the rest of the group can pray for?

PRAYER: (10 min) Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.