**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.**

* *If you’re in a relationship, how are you and your partner opposites? How are you similar? Do you tend to enjoy your differences or do they create conflict?*
* *What comment, observation, or principle from this weekend’s message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

**In Matthew 19, Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees about the issue of divorce. A common practice was for Jewish men to divorce their wives for any means. This was a misuse of God’s original intention of the Judaic Law. Jesus responds by giving new insight into how God views marriage. As cultures progress throughout history, a biblical view of marriage has often been in conflict with mainstream culture.**

* Get some context: Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Note all the “ifs.” Are these commands? Permissions? Acceptances? Something else?
* Read Matthew 19:1-12. How does Deuteronomy 24 give new insight into Matthew 19?
* How did Jesus’ view of marriage differ from that of the Pharisees’? How was their view similar?
* Why do you think Jesus makes such a big deal about marriage? What purpose does it serve biblically? What purpose does marriage serve to your culture? How are these views different?
* This Past Sunday, Pastor Jason defines God’s view of marriage as “a covenant, not a contract.” How would you describe the differences between the two?
* In verse six, Jesus shows us that two people becoming “one flesh” united in marriage is a work of God. How do you find this to be true in your own marriage?
* In that same verse, we also see Jesus give a warning for man not to separate what God has brought together in marriage. What does Jesus mean by this? How have we seen our culture try to separate what God has brought together in marriage?
* Jesus tells the Pharisees in verse eight that because of our hardness of heart he has allowed divorce. Does the term “hardness of heart” refer to man’s attitude toward God or man’s attitude toward his wife? Explain?

**Making it Personal:**

* This Past Sunday, Pastor Jason made the point that God uses our differences to make us better, while Satan tries to use our differences to make us bitter. How have you experienced this personally in your relationship?
* What is one take away or step you will take this week as a result of what you have learned?