

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 5: Impossible to Possible
Episode 8: Marriage and Divorce
July 16 & 19, 2026
Pastor Matt Carter

LEADER NOTES – *Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less*: Listen to ALL episodes for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

2026 - Summer trimester: 6/1–7/27 **Fall trimester:** 8/17–12/7

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New - Partner with Operation Barnabas: Become a mentor for veterans and first responders navigating crises. Both males and females are welcome to serve. [Click here](#)

[Sign up here](#) to receive monthly Serve Opportunities in our community from Outreach.

Serve at our Church Leaders Summit: As a church, we get to serve the body of Christ by hosting the 2nd annual Church Leaders Summit at our San Pablo campus. Learn more and sign up to serve at churchleadersssummit.com/serve.

Neighborhood Nights: This fall, Neighborhood Nights are coming to every Eleven22 campus—an unforgettable in-person experience with Pastor Joby in your neighborhood. Join us for a powerful evening of worship, storytelling, vision and fellowship as we lean into what God is calling us to in this next season. [Learn More.](#)

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: Download our app for [Apple](#) or [Android](#). Click the "Daily" icon at the bottom of the app for our daily Bible reading plan.

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

Action Step Review: Last week's action step: *1. Schedule time this week to read Colossians 2:13–14, pray and write down what Jesus has forgiven you of. Before focusing on what others owe you, thank Jesus for the debt He paid for you. 2. Identify one person you need to forgive. Pray honestly about the hurt, name the debt, and ask Jesus to help you apply His payment on the cross to what they owe you.* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Memory Verse: Matthew 19:5

Sermon Text: *Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:8-11; Ephesians 5:31-32*

Discussion Questions

Leaders: Please use the questions in the curriculum to facilitate discussion of the sermon and the Scriptures. **But there's no need to answer every question.** The goal is to get your group members talking more than you and to get them going deeper.

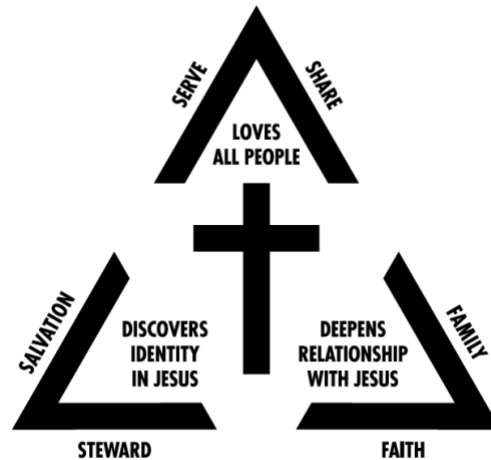
- **Read Matthew 19:1-12. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Jesus answered the Pharisees' question about divorce by taking them back to God's design for marriage in Genesis. Why do you think Jesus focused on God's original design instead of simply debating the exceptions?** *(God's design reveals His heart, and understanding God's purpose helps us understand His commands. Jesus wanted them to value marriage rather than look for loopholes. This is a good model for you to follow when you question God's commands.)*
- **God invented and designed marriage. How does that change any previous understanding you had about the origins and purpose of marriage?** *(Marriage is not ours to redefine. We submit to God's design, not the world's, and marriage becomes an act of worship and obedience. It was not good for Adam to be alone, and he needed a "helper." God wanted to populate and fill the earth with his image bearers. But the primary reason was for it to be a physical representation of Jesus's relationship to His bride, the church. Your marriage is a sermon to those around you. Read Ephesians 5:31-32.)*
- **Read Matthew 19:5. What are the physical and spiritual parts of marriage?** *(There's a physical binding of a husband and wife: "hold fast" means to cleave or cement. It's the strongest language in the Greek for binding something together in a permanent way. The word "become" means something that comes into being that didn't exist before. God supernaturally takes the man and woman and joins them together into a brand new creation.)*
- **Share a time you could feel God holding fast to you even though you were unfaithful to Him.**
- **Jesus said that husband and wife become "one flesh." How does that play out in everyday life?**
- **Discover:** What about marriage and divorce is hard for you to hear?
Deepen: Most of us have been impacted by divorce in some way. What are some promises from God that we can cling to as we heal and overcome the pain a divorce has caused? *(Read Romans 8:1 and 38-39.)*
- **What are we called to do if we're divorced or single?** *(Know God loves you. If you're remarried, live out your marriage the way God intended. If you're single, make sure you and the person you marry understand and agree to live out God's definition and design of marriage. If you don't wish to be married, pray to deepen your relationship with Jesus and your brothers and sisters in Christ.)*

Action Step: If you're married, pray with your spouse every day this week. If you're single, pray for your future spouse or for greater devotion to Christ. If you're divorced or widowed, thank God for His unending love and pray for continued healing.

Your Discipleship Journey

- **RightNow Media:** Find an unending supply of resources by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text "RightNow" to 441122.

(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)



Go to coe22.com/growthtrack, scroll down to "What's Growth Track?" and click the words, "Discipleship Triangle" to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.