

JESUS, JUSTICE, AND _____

Group Guide:
Week 5, Sex

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Who was your hero growing up?
- When you hear the name Jesus what is the first thing you think of?
- Discipleship check-in

TRUTH

This week we dive into another difficult conversation. Sex. We must enter into this moment with humble hearts and ears to hear what Jesus is saying. We also need to listen and empathize with one another as each of us will be entering into this conversation with different experiences. Let's take time to quiet our souls and pray before we begin so that we might hear Jesus' voice above all else.

READ: Matthew 19:1-12

DISCUSS:

- What surprises you or sticks about Jesus' response to the Pharisees?
- In verse 7, the Pharisees question Jesus about why Moses allowed the divorce to happen if it was against God's original design. Jesus responds by saying, "Because of YOUR hardness of heart...", why do you think he says "your" and not "their," meaning the Israelites during that time?

GRACE

DISCUSS:

Jesus answers the question by going back to the original design of marriage and sexuality. He is showing us that God made it to be good and a blessing. In his statement, "Your hardness of heart...", he is revealing how our hearts and sin have broken that which God intended to be good. When we enter into conversations about sex no one is free from the destruction of sin. How have you experienced the brokenness of sin in your sexuality?

CHANGE

DISCUSS:

- Jesus moves towards us in compassion despite our broken sexuality. When we experience this compassion it transforms us. Today, we have talked about a difficult subject. What would it look like to invite Jesus into the

brokenness of your sexuality? How can you actively do that this week?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Praise the Father that he created our sexuality to be good and a blessing. Praise Jesus that despite the brokenness of our sexuality he intends to knit it back together. Praise the Spirit that he gives us the power to live out a renewed sexuality. Ask God to help you experience the healing power of the gospel in your sexuality.

***Leader's Note:** In the coming weeks we will be covering very difficult topics ranging from race to gender. It is important that as we prepare for groups and the conversations we will be having that we are taking time to pray for our groups and walking in the Spirit in the midst of them. Don't ever feel like you have to have an answer to everyones questions. When you feel like you need additional wisdom and guidance feel free to reach out to your section leader or Sarah or Pastor Donny or Pastor Question. Also encourage your groups to attend the beyond the sermon series conversations that will be happening over Zoom with Pastor Adam on Sunday evenings.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?