

## **ONE LARGE GROUP**

### **PRAYER:**

**PURPOSE:** Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

### **ASSUMPTIONS:**

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help and bless our families, neighbors, and country

### **THEME:** “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path (blessing/curse, heaven/hell)

### **LESSON 5 REVIEW:** (The Church)

- Christ is the head of the church (which is the body of all believers)
- The Holy Spirit empowers and motivates believers (gives ability to obey)
- Sanctification is accomplished within the church (discipling, as an apprentice)
- The church witnesses to the glory and power of God in this world (changed lives)

### **OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 6:** (Marriage)

- Identify the origin of marriage
- Realize the problem sin caused for marriage
- Understand the biblical reasons for marriage

### **BIBLE:**

Over time the English language adopted many idioms based on the Bible. These idioms entered the language during a time when more people read, and were familiar with, the Bible. Some of the more common idioms are as follows:

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Phrase</b>
Dan 5:4-6, 17-31	The handwriting is on the wall
Lev 24:19-20	An eye for an eye
Lev 16:7-10	A scape goat
Jn 20:24-29	A Doubting Thomas
Job 19:20	Skin of our teeth
Ex 10:21	Darkness which may be felt
Hos 8:7	Sown the wind & reaped a whirlwind
Ex 2:22	Stranger in a strange land
Dt 8:3, Mt 4:4	Not live by bread alone
Dan 5:27	Weighed in the balance and found wanting

## Malachi Men Lesson 6 “Marriage” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

Eccl 1:2, 12:8	Vanities of vanities
Eccl 1:9	Nothing new under the sun
Eccl 3:1	To everything there is a season
Mt 26:41, Mk 14:38	The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak
Isa 2:4, Joel 3:10, Mic 4:3	Swords into plowshares
Gen 3:19	Dust to dust
Isa 40:15	A drop in the bucket
Eccl 10:1	A fly in the ointment
Ps 107:27	At wits end
Jer 13:23	Can a leopard change its spots?
Eccl 8:15	Eat, drink, and be merry
Gen 45:18	Living off the fat of the land
Ezek 18:2	Sour grapes
Mt 15:14	Blind leading the blind
Jn 8:7	To cast the first stone

### **MARRIAGE:**

**Q – How did marriage begin?** (Is it a man-made idea?)

**Genesis 1:26-27** (1) Then God said, “*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.*” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; *male and female He created them.*

### **ANSWER 1:**

- God created male and female (God had a design for mankind)
- God created them to rule over, and care for, His earthly creation (together)
- Man and woman were created in God’s image (to reflect and mirror God)
- They were not created male & male, or female & female (this is redundant)

**Genesis 2:7** (2) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

**Note:** Man was God-breathed, the animals were not

**Genesis 2:18-25** (2) And the Lord God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*” Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man

# Malachi Men Lesson 6 “Marriage” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore *a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

## ANSWER 2:

- God designed marriage
- Marriage is the first human institution God created
- God gave away the first bride
- There were only 2 people at this time, yet God set the pattern for families
- Families are God’s building blocks of society
- Families are where you learn values and how to live together

## Q – What problem did sin cause for marriage?

*God’s Judgment on Eve (and all women thereafter)*

Genesis 3:16 (3) To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

*God’s counsel to Cain (when his sacrifice was not accepted)*

Genesis 4:7 (4) “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

## ANSWER:

- Both husband and wife want to be head of the family
- As a result of the Fall (Adam & Eve’s disobedience of God’s Word), God’s original design for the family is skewed.
- The husband now naturally desires to rule as a tyrant and the wife resists him in her effort to be the ruler (each playing “king of the mountain”).
- A husband and wife’s natural tendency in marriage is now sinful (not so before).
- Satan attacked the institution of marriage in Eden

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## SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

**Review Homework:** (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Do you understand yourself better?
- Are you resolved to act differently?

**Recite Prior Memory Verses:** (Gen 1:1, Prov 4:23, Eph 1:3, Jn 17:17, 1 Cor 12:7)

**MARRIAGE (continued):**

**Q – Why is there divorce?**

**Matthew 19:3-8** (952) The Pharisees also came to Him testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said “for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? “So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. *Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*” They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” He said to them, “Moses, *because of the hardness of your hearts*, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.”

**Malachi 2:16** (926) *For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce*, for it covers one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.

**ANSWER:**

- Divorce is man’s plan, due to his hardness of heart
- The sexes (male & female) were God’s plan
- Marriage was God’s plan and was designed to be cooperative
- God brought together – let not man separate
- Sin brought conflict into marriage
- Divorce is man’s plan, not God’s (God hates divorce)
- Since God created mankind and marriage, He also has the answers to marriage problems – this gives us hope

**Notes:**

- Culture (Satan’s kingdom) opposes God’s Word & plan (homosexuality, divorce, sex without marriage, etc.)
- Statistics regarding single-family homes:
  - 70% of prisoners are from single-family homes
  - 77% more likely to be physically abused
  - 165% greater chance of physical neglect
  - More health problems, mental problems, suicides

**Q – What are some of the reasons for marriage?** (Review Genesis 2:18-25)

**Genesis 2:18** (2) And the Lord God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone*; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

**ANSWER 1:**

- Companionship (it is not good to be alone)
- Mutual help (a helper comparable to him)

## Malachi Men Lesson 6 “Marriage” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

### Notes:

- There has always been companionship in the Trinity (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- Marriage is to reflect the relationship in the Trinity (made in God’s image)
- Loneliness is not good (God said this)
- Together, Adam & Eve were to have dominion over God’s creation
- Couples in the animal world work cooperatively together for a common goal

**Genesis 2:24** (3) Therefore *a man shall leave his father and mother* and be joined to his wife, and *they shall become one flesh*.

**2 Samuel 5:1** (337) Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, “Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.”

### ANSWER 2:

- Unity
  - Leave and cleave (leave one family & start another with your wife)
  - One flesh (agree in: goals, finances, parenting, communication, etc.)

### Notes:

- People are always considered to be part of a family
- You leave one family and start another family
- The family is the most basic unit God created

**Malachi 2:15** (926) But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? *He seeks godly offspring*. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

### ANSWER 3:

- Raise godly children

### Q – How does God view the marriage agreement?

**Proverbs 2:17** (645) Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the *covenant* of her God.

**Malachi 2:14** (926) Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and *your wife by covenant*.

**1 Corinthians 7:39** (1120) A wife is *bound by law* as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

### ANSWER:

- As an inviolable contract, for life

# Malachi Men Lesson 6 “Marriage” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

## Notes:

- Marriage is a legal contract
- God designed marriage to last for life
- God is the “Justice of the Peace” who sanctifies each marriage
- God gave away not only the first bride, but also all those following
- Followers of Christ are only to marry another follower of Christ

## Q – How is marriage under attack today?

- Marriage is considered a man-made institution (not God ordained)
- Marriage isn’t necessary (people live together)
- Divorce can be for any reason (no fault)
- The definition of marriage is being changed:
  - Between a man and a man
  - Between a woman and a woman
  - Between a group of people
- The purpose of marriage is being changed:
  - For sex only
  - For male domination of females

## Q – In what ways has this study changed your view of marriage?

## Q – What are some practical steps you can take to begin making your marriage biblical?

## SUMMARY:

- Marriage was designed by God
- Marriage is for mutual benefit
- Marriage is intended to reflect and glorify God

## HOMEWORK:

- Memorize Genesis 2:24
- Read Genesis 2:24
  - List three things you believe the Scripture means in this passage
- Read Malachi 2:14
  - Since marriage is a contract, what implications does this have for the marriage relationship?
- Read Genesis 2:18 and Malachi 2:14
  - These passages indicate that one purpose of marriage is companionship
  - List five ways you can express and develop companionship

## Malachi Men Lesson 6 “Marriage” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

- Read Genesis 2:24 and answer the following questions:
  - Have you really left your parents? If not, how not?
  - Are you absolutely committed (cleaving) to your mate?
  - Are you absolutely devoted and loyal to your mate?
  - How much oneness do you have:
    - Spiritually?
    - Recreationally?
    - Intellectually?
    - Sexually?
    - Financially?
- Consider and list ways you can strengthen your marriage relationship
- Discuss at least five marriage goals. What do you want out of marriage?

**Memory Verse:** (repeat as a group)

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

**Memory Hint:** Motivation: Be motivated to glorify God by memorizing His word. God loves to hear His children repeat what He has spoken. By being motivated to learn, you will motivate and encourage others to memorize Scripture also.

**Prayer Time:**