

IT'S COMPLICATED

3. Try Before You Buy

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Matthew 19.3-6

'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," 5 and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

- v3. 'Is it lawful?' Jesus was asked about rules and regulations, but answered with Principle, Explanation and Practice. Are we sometimes guilty of just wanting religious answers and rules? If so, why?
- What are the challenges of trying to work through Biblical Principles and then apply them to our lives and thinking?
- 47% of men and 48% of women aged 20 will never marry. Why do you think marriage has become devalued in our society?
- What did you think of the 'Tug of War' analogy? Did it work for you? What bits did you find most compelling? What parts were you less convinced by?
- Why is 'Decision' such a big factor in long-term, committed relationships? How does the Christian ideal of marriage strengthen 'Decision'? How does cohabitation potentially weaken it?
- Christian Marriage is a Covenant, rather than a Contract. 'All of me, for all of you'. Is this a realistic and desirable thing to aim for? Why is it harder to move from a Cohabiting Contract ('A bit of me, for a bit of you') into a Marriage Covenant?
- What role does Faith play in keeping a marriage stable and secure? How can couples effectively bring Faith into their 'Tug of War' team?

Big Idea: 'The Bible's Principle of keeping Sex within Marriage gives couples the best possible shot at happiness, in a complicated world.'

Break into smaller single sex groups and take some time to pray through any issues raised. Pray particularly where there are areas of regret or hurt. Pray for a brand new heart from Jesus. Pray for forgiveness and a wiping clean of the slate. Pray for the strength and conviction to put Biblical principles into practice. Pray for those outside of church that need to hear this message. Pray for future relationships for those looking for them!