

## WEEK FOUR: QUESTIONS TO CONNECT OVER

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

Message: BROKEN – The Messiness of Marriage, and the Hard Reality of Divorce

### Consider

The previous weeks have focused around these truths:

Week 1: **Service.** Marriage is first about your holiness (your being made to look more like Jesus)

Week 2: **Covenant.** God designed marriage to be a binding covenant, which differs tremendously from a consumeristic understanding of marriage.

Week 3: **Mutual Submission.** In all spheres of life, Christian's are called to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1. What has been your biggest takeaway, challenge or encouragement from this series so far?
2. In light of these takeaways, how is God calling you to respond? If nothing comes to mind personally, examine how effective your Christian witness is, in regards to either your role in your marriage, or your state as a single/divorced/ widowed person. Do people see Jesus alive and working in and through you and your marriage?

### Dig Deeper

1. How has divorce, remarriage, or relationship breakdown impacted you personally? (Have you felt the painful aftershock of watching a friend, loved one or acquaintance walk through a divorce?)
2. Were you able to offer love and support, or did you feel helpless?
3. Culturally, the assumption is that marriages are private- and often we only hear that people were struggling in their marriage once they have decided to separate. How can we encourage and protect our marriage and those of our friends and family before divorce becomes an option?
4. What would you say to a friend who is considering divorce? Is your answer in line with Christ's heart as seen through scripture?
5. Paul Tripp says that "all marriage problems are heart problems" – what might this reveal about conflict, struggles and many of the hard seasons of marriage?
6. If you were to watch a video recording of your life, would you be saddened or surprised by how you treat your spouse in the small moments of life?
7. Have you experienced or witnessed the transforming power of the Gospel in your marriage or those around you?

### Love in Action

1. Based on what you have heard, felt or learned thus far, how can you grow in service (love in action) and support for your spouse?
2. Between now and our final week together, what are 2 things you can begin doing that will benefit your spouse, marriage or other relationships?