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“What therefore God has joined, let no man separate.
~Matthew 19:6

“If I’m alone for long, I become lonely. I long to find acceptance, comfort and safety in others. When I’m alone all of my dreams for marriage come to the foreground. Put more starkly, when I’m alone all of the desires and fears most likely to become my idols begin to rage...

But marriage and relationships were not created as substitutes for God. Just the opposite, marriage and relationships are expressions of the perfect love and relationship we find in God.”

~Winston Smith, *Marriage Matters*

- 1) Read Matthew 19:1-12. Is there anything from the sermon or passage that you found confusing, surprising or encouraging?
- 2) How does Jesus’ teaching on marriage confront our American views on marriage and divorce?
- 3) What is beautiful about God’s design for marriage in Genesis? What’s terrifying and difficult about it?
- 4) Why does God permit divorce? When is divorce permissible for the Christian? How can we show grace for the divorced like Jesus? In what way does God surprisingly identify with the divorced? (see Jer. 3:8)
- 5) What is the hope for singles among us in Christ? What resources are in the gospel to help them with their loneliness and search for meaning? What ways can we as a church bring singles and married and the divorced together in deep meaningful relationships?
- 6) Pray for Hope Church to be a community that is moved by Christ’s wedding day delight in us, cultivating deep friendships together.