



#### **Part 4: Faithfulness**

Are you married? Looking forward to being married? Single again? Wherever you are in life, romantic relationships have a profound effect on our lives. They can be amazing, complicated, exciting and excruciating. Whatever stage you find yourself in, Jesus gives profound insights on how our approach to relationships can change everything.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:3-9

**Bottom Line:** A reactive 'me' drives a marriage apart. A proactive 'we' bring a marriage together.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What would you say is the purpose of marriage? What are some of the influences that have shaped your perspective?
2. On Sunday we talked about 3 common phases of relationships (the romantic phase, power struggle phase and true love phase). Review the general idea of each phase. Have you experienced any of these? What are some real life examples?
3. Read Matthew 5:31-32. What is Jesus' position on marriage according to this passage? What do you think are the reasons that he teaches this view? What is your initial response to it?
4. Compare what you just read to Matthew 19:3-9. What does this section add to what Jesus has taught?
5. What do you think are the intentions of the Pharisees' question? How does Jesus answer it?
6. In this section Jesus quotes Genesis. What does it mean for 2 to become 1? How does the idea of 2 becoming 1 influence the way we think about what marriage is all about? How does it help us think about how we should approach romantic relationships and marriage? Is there something that you can apply to your life based on the truth in this passage?

#### **Moving Forward**

Take a few moments to reflect and write down some of your personal hopes, fears and aspirations in your marriage or in your singleness. If you're comfortable, share 1 or 2 with a small group and pray for one another.