



Did God Really Say...?

Family Discussion Guide

Did God Really Say Series // September 11, 2022

Discussion Questions for Kids

- 1. Who do you think created marriage? God created marriage when He created Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:23). Did you know that God created marriage? Why do you think He made marriage for us?**
 - It was God's idea for Adam and Eve to be married, and that shows us God's plan for marriage.
 - God created people in His image. That means we are special to God and were created on purpose to have relationships with God and with each other. How have you seen marriage in different ways than God wants it to be?

- 2. God made marriage to be for one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). God made men and women to be partners in marriage. If God made it that way, how do you think He feels with us changing it?**
 - We see times in the Bible when people chose not to follow God's plan for marriage, and it always brought them trouble. (Abraham and Hagar, David and Bathsheba, Solomon and his 700 wives are just a few examples.) They each had consequences because of the decisions they made to not follow God (Hebrews 13:4).
 - It was God's idea for men and women to get married and have families (Genesis 1:28).



3. God's plan for marriage is for it to last for the rest of our lives. Do you think God still means for marriage to last for a lifetime?

- Even though we don't live in the same time as when the Bible was written, God's plans and promises are still for us. There are always consequences for us when we don't follow God's plan. What consequences have you had when you disobeyed? Do you think God still gives consequences for disobedience? Why or why not?

4. We see how God loves us by looking at families and marriage. Have you ever thought about believers as being one big family?

- In Ephesians 5:32, Paul quotes Genesis (Paul had Bible verses memorized too!) and then tells us that the same concepts apply to us and Jesus. He loves us like a groom loves his bride.
- The Bible talks about our relationship with God like we talk about our family. God is our Father. Jesus is His son. We are children of God (John 1:12-13) as well as the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32). Satan would love for us to all be mad at God and each other so he can get us to stop listening to God and stop helping one another. Do you think God wants us to be angry with one another?

5. It's never too late to ask God for forgiveness. God never stops loving us, even when we disobey. Families keep loving each other! Should we stop loving someone if they disobey God?

- When we go outside of God's plan, we can ask Him to forgive us, and He will (1 John 1:9).
- We shouldn't be ashamed or afraid to ask God for forgiveness. Nothing is too big for Him to forgive. He is ready and waiting for us to ask!
- Action Step: Ask God to forgive you for disobeying Him. Is there someone you have been angry with? Go tell them you love them!

Discussion Questions for Students

- 1. When God created Adam and Eve, He also created marriage. Have you ever thought about marriage as being holy? Do you see examples of how marriage is treated poorly today? Why do you think that is? Have you**



wondered why people in our society make such a big deal about marriage and say people should be able to marry whomever they wish?

- God's intention for marriage was for a man and a woman to be joined together for life (Genesis 2:23).
- God created sex when He created marriage, which was before the fall, when sin entered the world. Sex was made to be within the bounds of marriage, and within that context, is blessed by God (Genesis 2:24).
- Because we were created in God's image, we were created for relationships with Him and with each other.

2. God says marriage means one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). What does our culture say about relationships and marriage? Does it fit with what God says? Why does it matter that God says marriage is intended to be for one man and one woman?

- We see multiple instances in the Old Testament where people chose to deviate from God's plan. They always suffered consequences (and sometimes punishment) for stepping outside of God's plan. Abraham took Hagar, even though he was married to Sarah. David stepped outside of marriage with Bathsheba. Solomon had 700 wives. Hagar and her son Ishmael were sent away, David committed adultery and murder, and later lost the baby Bathsheba gave birth to. Solomon was led away from God by his wives. These are just a few examples of what happens when God's plan is ignored (Hebrews 13:4).
- God created man and woman to be fruitful and multiply, and it was part of the command He gave to us in the Garden. He created us equal but different, and it takes both a man and a woman in marriage to fulfill God's intended plan for marriage (Genesis 1:28).

3. God is clear that He intends marriage to last a lifetime, and with it, the boundaries He created for sex. Why do you think sexual sin is so tempting? Is it hard to set boundaries that follow God's plan? Have you been tempted to categorize or classify one kind of sexual sin as being better or worse than another kind? Do you think our culture does this? Why does that matter?

- It's important to understand what God says about sex and marriage because our culture will tell us what we want to hear. Even though we



don't live in the same time as Abraham, David, and Solomon, there are still consequences for going outside the boundaries God set up for us.

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 says that anything outside of God's plan for sex is wrong, and is, in fact, harmful to us. Sex isn't just a fun activity without consequences. It is created by God to be only within the boundaries of marriage. Outside of that context, it is sin.
- Jesus is clear in Matthew 5:27 that even the attitude of our own heart is sinful. God's commands reveal the sinfulness of our own hearts and our need for Him. None of us have pure hearts according to God's standards, which means that we all need His grace and mercy. If we think of it that way, is it less tempting to judge others? What's the difference between holding yourself to a higher standard and judging the sin of others?
- Action Step: Ask your student to think about some boundaries they already have or need to set up in their life to help guard against sexual sin. Discuss your own boundaries and think of any you might need to add. Encourage your student to write them down and share with someone who can help keep those boundaries in place.

4. Marriage is a picture of the Gospel. Have you ever thought of it that way? Why do you think Satan wants to mess up the relationships we have with God and each other?

- In Ephesians 5:32, Paul quotes Genesis, then tells us that this same concept of marriage applies to Jesus and the Church - the followers of Christ.
- The Bible talks about our relationship with God in family terms. We have God the Father and Jesus the Son. Believers are called the Children of God (John 1:12-13) and the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32). Satan hates the Gospel and would love nothing more than to destroy the family of God by messing up our relationships with God and each other. He wants to lead people astray before they can truly understand the Gospel. When we aren't listening to God, we sin more. And when we're isolated from other believers, we don't have the support or accountability we need to help us follow God's plan.

5. It's not too late to turn away from sin. God loves us and is waiting to forgive us when we ask (1 John 1:9).



- If you are outside of God's boundaries for sex, it is not too late to repent. Ask God for His forgiveness and turn away from the sinful actions you have participated in.
- There is no need to carry guilt or shame for past sin. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells us He will provide rest for our souls. He carries our burdens.
- Action Step: Encourage your student to talk to you or a trusted adult who can help them get the support they need.

