UNGLUED

If you have ever worked with strong glue, you know how to be careful not to stick together things you do not intend to keep together. Once they are stuck together, you may be able to separate them, but it will not be without significant effort, and both objects are likely to experience some damage.

Any time a relationship ends, it is a painful experience that makes an impact on one’s psyche. The death of a loved one, severing ties with a community due to a job relocation, breaking an unfruitful liaison—these all occur with varying degrees of hurt. The closer the connection that is sundered, the more excruciating the experience.

When individuals come together sexually, they achieve the highest level of physical intimacy. The physical connection has involuntary emotional, psychological, and spiritual effects on them. In a supernatural way, the sexual act binds individuals together. Even outside the bonds of marriage, breaking a sexual relationship is significantly more painful and more damaging than if the relationship had not been sexual in nature.

Divorce has come to be viewed by many as a viable solution to marital stress—If it is not working, just end it. But in marriage, God glues two people together. From the practical tasks of managing a household together to the intangible manner in which society now views them, marriage welds a couple’s lives together. To crown it all, the one act that embodies the glue effect of marriage, where two become one, is sex. The divorced couple may be separated, but not without damage to both parties.

Read This Week’s Passage:
Matthew 19:3–11
Write out Matthew 19:3–11 from the Bible translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Matthew 19:3–11. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Why is adultery so damaging and devastating to both spouses?

What are early steps that lead to adultery and how can these be avoided?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What is the remedy for the hardness of heart that Christ references in His response to the Pharisees?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 John 2:1, 2  
1 Corinthians 7:10–16  
Matthew 18:1–20:16  
Romans 7:1–6  
1 Corinthians 13

What other verses come to mind in connection with divorce in Scripture?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 19:3–11.
Where is Jesus in Matthew 19:3–11?

How does a picture of Jesus as a divorcee impact your view of divorce as presented in our key text for the week?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex11-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the text, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What applications can be made in your relationships?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex11-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does it seem unfair to you that divorce can be sought only in the case of adultery?

If divorce is not an option, what principles can be applied to situations of domestic abuse?

Are all divorcees going to hell (except those whose spouse committed adultery)?

Is your local church doing enough to offer support to those going through the pain of ended relationships (divorcees, widow(er)s)?

How have divorce and messy marriages impacted the next generation’s view of marriage?

What obstacles hinder you from ministering to those suffering from broken relationships?

How can your local church support the marriages in your congregation to prevent divorces from happening and nurture happy marriages?