



## A Renewal of Marriage and Family

### March 20                      Matthew 19:1-15

#### A Note

- There are likely more children in your church affected by divorce than you think, and others in situations that do not fit neatly into a “whole” or “broken” family paradigm - think of foster kids, or kids in a single parent home due to the death of a parent. Keep this in mind as you talk about this passage with them.

#### Object Lessons and Storytelling Ideas

- Talk about how marriages and families are important to Jesus. They are made to be good things, but Jesus knows that they're not always perfect. Divorce is not God's plan, but sometimes it happens anyway. God prefers his good plan, but he is with us no matter what happens.
- Have your parents ever let you do something that you wanted to do, even though they didn't actually want you to? Maybe they let you eat a whole box of candy or watch a movie that they knew would be too scary. How did it go?
- What would you ask Jesus if you you were one of the children brought to Jesus.

#### Discussion Ideas and Questions

- Divorce is one example of something that is not God's good plan, but still happens. What are some other things that happen that we can't control that are not God's good plan? How can we trust God when they happen?
- There are things in the Bible that God allows even though he knows they are not the best. Some of these things he allows in the Old Testament but then in the New Testament reminds the people are actually not what is best. What can you think of that he allows but that you think he would like to be different?

#### At Home Connections

- Pray an intentional and specific blessing over your children. Check out [www.ministryspark.com/blessings-for-children](http://www.ministryspark.com/blessings-for-children) if you need ideas.
- Spend intentional time together as a family enjoy each other's company - you could play a game or have a movie night, go for a walk, hike or bike ride.
- Talk about your family history. What events brought your family where you are? How has God been faithful even in difficult things? Look at old pictures together.