



# Redefined!

## Redefined – Week 4: “*Lust, Adultery, and Divorce*” Message Discussion Guide      April 28, 2024

**Icebreaker:** We have the luxury of being able to break down Jesus’ sermon and talk about it in little bits — what would it be like to hear the entire thing at once without any explanation?

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 5:27-37; Exodus 20:14; Matthew 15:18; Romans 3:23

1. There can be differing opinions among Christians about how to read the Bible, and some take a “just do exactly what it says” approach. Others suggest that we need to work at interpreting the Scripture and sometimes we need additional information like cultural and historical context. Read Matthew 5:27-30. Should we all be gouging our eyes out and cutting off our hands, or what approach do we take in reading a passage like this one?
2. The Bible Project has launched a new series on the Sermon on the Mount and just released an 8 minute video on this passage. Watch it by [clicking this link](#), or going to [www.bibleproject.com](http://www.bibleproject.com) and clicking on the “Getting to the Heart of the Matter” video at the top of the page. What are your initial thoughts after watching it?
3. Talk about the ways you may have seen the passage on divorce weaponized or misused in Christian settings. How does the background knowledge of what divorce looked like at the time and the controversy around it add to your understanding of this passage?
4. Talk about the way that Jesus is turning Old Testament commandments into a way of life that prioritizes the dignity of people and shows great concern that his followers don’t dehumanize others. How do you think the first audience of the sermon felt about it? Can you understand why some people might have been alarmed by Jesus while others felt drawn in?
5. In the future when you encounter a passage that seems very harsh or extreme if taken literally, what approach will you take to helping yourself and others understand it better? Why is it worthwhile to do this even if it is more time-consuming?

**Prayer:** God of Forgiveness, We long to live a life that represents all that you desire for healthy relationships. Daily, search our hearts and minds to remove thoughts that can lead us to acting on our temptations and breaking covenant with you and those we love. We pray today, that those we have wronged will forgive us. Thank you for being a God of grace, who understands our inclination to wander and loves us regardless. Amen.