

19 Family matters - Divorce? Remarriage?

What makes a marriage fail?

What sorts of things cause the breakdown of a marriage?



How do these cause a marriage to break down? Why might some married couples seem able to cope with these difficulties?



"You'll have to get behind me and push."

What God has joined

Read Matthew 19:3-6. What does this tell you about what marriage is?

What makes a marriage work?

Is divorce ever right?

Look at Malachi 2:14-16 and Jeremiah 3:6-14. What do these passages teach you about how God regards divorce, and how he teaches us to behave when problems arise?

The legal side of divorce

What does 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 teach you about the rights and wrongs of the legal aspect of a divorce?

Is remarriage acceptable?

Read Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:4-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15 and 7:39. Are there any circumstances under which remarriage might be acceptable. If passages seem not to say the same thing, you may like to discuss why, but don't have an argument about it.

What if it all goes wrong?

What is the situation for anyone who is divorced and remarried? Have they forfeited any hope of salvation? If not, what is the way back for them?