

## Lesson plan

# The ethics of marriage in the New Testament

*Jon Mayled*

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| <b>The big picture</b>          | The Bible states that God ordained marriage as the means by which a husband and wife make a commitment to an exclusive and binding relationship that will last until the death of one of the partners   |
| <b>Learning objectives</b>      | <p>What? New Testament teaching on marriage and divorce.</p> <p>Why? To evaluate and analyse these ethical teachings.</p> <p>How? After studying this topic, students should be able to explain New Testament teachings on the ethics of marriage and compare these with other viewpoints.</p>  |
| <b>Starter activity</b>         | Without looking at your notes, write down what you think are the key teachings about the ethics of marriage and divorce in the New Testament. Then compare and discuss your list with the person next to you.   |
| <b>Lesson activities</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare New Testament teachings about marriage and divorce with Jewish ones.</li> <li>• Look at Joseph Fletcher's views on marriage and divorce. Do you think that most Christians would find these acceptable?</li> <li>• J. A. T. Robinson wrote that there had been a 'wind of change' in morality and that Christianity must adapt to this in order to survive. To what extent do you agree with his ideas?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Plenary</b>                  | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is New Testament teaching about the ethics of marriage too old-fashioned to be followed in the twenty-first century?</li> <li>• The Roman Catholic Church will only recognise the end of a marriage if an annulment has been granted. Is there justification for this view in New Testament teachings?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Homework task</b>            | Complete a timed essay question on Christian views about marriage/divorce.  |
| <b>Assessment opportunities</b> | Using the mark scheme, students should self-assess their work with feedback from the teacher.   |
| <b>Differentiation</b>          | Teachers may wish to put key points on a worksheet for dyslexic/EAL students.   |

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