

DIVORCE IS NEVER CHRISTIAN

Workbook Facilitator Answer Key

(Chapters 1-20)

Prepared for marriagehotline911.com

How to Use This Answer Key

Purpose: Equip lay facilitators to lead biblically faithful, pastorally courageous conversations—without replacing the Holy Spirit or the couple’s conscience before God.

Posture: Truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Guide participants toward Scripture, repentance, prayer, and practical obedience.

Scope: This key offers themes and sample answers, not scripts. Affirm any response aligned with Scripture and repentance.

Session Rhythm (60–75 minutes)

1. Open in prayer (2–3m): Ask for soft hearts and courage to obey.
2. Read the chapter’s key Scripture(s) aloud (3–5m).
3. Opening Charge reflection (5–7m): One honest takeaway per person.
4. Soul-Searching Questions (25–35m): Use prompts below; redirect to the heart.
5. Action Step planning (10–12m): One concrete, accountable step per couple.
6. Prayer of repentance & intercession (10m): Men pray for wives; wives for husbands.
7. House of Prayer habit: Assign a short daily practice for the week.

Red-Flag Protocol (Safety & Church Order)

- Imminent harm or abuse: ensure safety; involve qualified leaders/civil authorities. Separation for protection may be necessary while honoring 1 Cor. 7:10–11.
- Unrepentant sexual immorality: begin Matthew 18 process with elders; aim at restoration.
- Remarriage while spouse lives: call it adultery (Luke 16:18); counsel repentance, ceasing the sin, and pastoral care for complex providences.

Workbook: Chapter 1 — What Is Marriage? God's Design From the Beginning

Big Idea: Marriage is God's covenant (Eden); one man, one woman, one flesh for life—picture of Christ and the Church.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Gen. 2:18–24; Matt. 19:4–6; Eph. 5:31–32

Facilitator Notes

- Establish creation order before Mosaic concessions; God joins, we steward.
- Press practical 'leave and cleave' examples.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin ("God wants me happy").
- Calling covenant "bondage."
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Household covenant: nightly prayer + read Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6; say together, "Lord, we agree with You."

Prayer Prompt

"Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Workbook: Chapter 2 — God Hates Divorce

Big Idea: God hates putting away; divorce is treachery; His standard does not change.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Mal. 2:13–16; Heb. 13:8; Luke 16:18

Facilitator Notes

- Use biblical language—treachery—without cruelty.
- Name remarriage while spouse lives as adultery (Luke 16:18).

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Memorize Mal. 2:16 and Luke 16:18; remove media/voices that normalize divorce.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 3 — The Hardness of Heart

Big Idea: Divorce springs from hardness of heart; the remedy is repentance, not paperwork.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Matt. 19:8; Ezek. 36:26; Heb. 3:12–13

Facilitator Notes

- Hardness is toward God first; repentance softens.
- Move from blame to ownership.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Write a repentance list: where hardness shows; one repair action per item.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 4 — Who Is Your Master?

Big Idea: You will serve God or self; covenants reveal who truly masters your heart.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Josh. 24:15; Matt. 6:24; Rom. 6:16

Facilitator Notes

- Expose functional masters (comfort, control, image).
- Call for allegiance: “As for me and my house...”

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Choose your Master: write three concrete ways you’ll serve the Lord this week.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 5 — Covenant, Not Contract

Big Idea: Marriage is a covenant, not a consumer contract; vows bind until death.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Mal. 2:14; Rom. 7:2–3; 1 Cor. 7:39

Facilitator Notes

- Contrast covenant vs. contract; vows > vibes.
- ‘Bound’ is biblical; don’t let language drift to ‘bondage.’

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Draft your vows-in-action plan (money, time, church, intimacy).

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 6 — The Fear of the Lord vs. the Fear of Man

Big Idea: Fear of man fuels escape plans; fear of the Lord anchors obedience.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Prov. 29:25; Isa. 8:13; Acts 5:29

Facilitator Notes

- Replace people-pleasing with God-fearing obedience.
- Assign one fear-of-the-Lord practice this week.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

One fear-of-the-Lord choice that may cost you reputation/comfort—but honors God.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 7 — Divorce Is a Sin Problem

Big Idea: Sin—not marriage—is the problem; Jesus gives new hearts, not loopholes.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Rom. 3:23; Ezek. 36:26; Matt. 11:28

Facilitator Notes

- Target heart-level idols, not spouse behavior.
- New heart > new partner.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Burn the exit plan: write, renounce, and replace with prayer and counsel.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 8 — Watchmen: Our Duty to Warn

Big Idea: Watchmen must warn; silence is complicity; Ezekiel 33 duty applies.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Ezek. 33:7–9; Acts 20:26–27; Eph. 4:15

Facilitator Notes

- Silence kills; courage warns with tears.
- Teach Ezekiel 33 accountability.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Send a Matthew 18:15 invitation to a struggling friend—truth in love.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 9 — Forgiveness & Reconciliation

Big Idea: Forgiveness is commanded; reconciliation is the goal; boundaries may be needed, bitterness must not reign.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Matt. 6:14–15; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; Rom. 12:17–21

Facilitator Notes

- Define forgiveness biblically; aim at reconciliation where possible.
- Boundaries are for healing, not retaliation.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Make one reconciliation move (call, letter, meeting with an elder).

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 10 — A House of Prayer

Big Idea: Marriages become houses of prayer: Scripture, confession, intercession daily.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Matt. 6:9–13; Acts 2:42; James 5:16

Facilitator Notes

- Give a simple prayer liturgy couples can keep.
- Prayer replaces pride fights.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Adopt the 7-day prayer liturgy (Scripture, confession, intercession).

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 11 — Divorce Is a Sin Problem (Deep Dive)

Big Idea: Peel back layers of sin logic; expose self-justification; pursue godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10).

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Prov. 14:12; Jer. 17:9; 2 Cor. 7:10–11

Facilitator Notes

- Differentiate worldly sorrow vs. godly sorrow.
- Require fruit of repentance, not speeches.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Journal godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow; share one fruit next session.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 12 — Watchmen: Our Duty to Warn (Applied)

Big Idea: Move from conviction to action: warn with accuracy and compassion.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Ezek. 3:17–19; Gal. 6:1; Jude 22–23

Facilitator Notes

- Role-play warning with Scripture; avoid accusation tone.
- Always invite to the cross.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Draft a gentle warning script with verses; practice delivery.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 13 — Forgiveness & Reconciliation (Applied)

Big Idea: Practice forgiveness steps: confess, forsake, make repair; refuse revenge.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Luke 17:3–4; Col. 3:12–14; Matt. 18:21–35

Facilitator Notes

- Walk through confession/repair steps.
- Confront revenge fantasies with Romans 12.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Perform one repair deed for the person you hurt; no explanations, just obedience.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 14 — A House of Prayer (Practice)

Big Idea: Build the habit: simple daily liturgy that sticks when emotions don't.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10; 1 Thes. 5:17

Facilitator Notes

- Tie prayer to habit cues (meals/bedtime).
- Small, steady > big, rare.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin ("God wants me happy").
- Calling covenant "bondage."
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Tie prayer to a daily cue; set a shared reminder.

Prayer Prompt

"Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Workbook: Chapter 15 — The Wreckage Divorce Leaves on Families & the Church

Big Idea: Divorce spreads wreckage to children and churches; call sin what God calls it.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Mal. 2:16–17; Matt. 18:6; Ex. 20:5

Facilitator Notes

- Keep children central; don't sanitize harm.
- Tie personal sin to church witness.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin ("God wants me happy").
- Calling covenant "bondage."
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Plan a family altar night; bless each child by name; ask forgiveness where needed.

Prayer Prompt

"Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Workbook: Chapter 16 — The Lies of “Pain Relief” Divorce

Big Idea: “Relief” is a lie; rest is in Christ alone; crosses before comfort.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Isa. 48:22; Matt. 16:24; 1 Thes. 5:3

Facilitator Notes

- Contrast relief vs. rest; cross before comfort.
- Replace escape plans with obedience plans.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

List pain points; lay them at the cross; choose one obedience over relief daily.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 17 — Clarity on Remarriage & Adultery (Matthew 19:9)

Big Idea: Matthew's wording identifies culpability, not permission; harmonize with Mark, Luke, and Paul.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Matt. 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11–12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10–11, 39

Facilitator Notes

- Teach Matthew in Jewish context; harmonize with Mark/Luke/Paul.
- Culpability statements ≠ permission slips.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin ("God wants me happy").
- Calling covenant "bondage."
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Write a statement rejecting loopholes; commit to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:11).

Prayer Prompt

"Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Workbook: Chapter 18 — The Historical Weakening of the Church

Big Idea: Cultural Christianity weakens testimony; covenant keepers endure by grace.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Heb. 13:8; James 1:22; Phil. 4:13

Facilitator Notes

- Contrast label-wearers and doers; urge holiness.
- Encourage data discernment without cynicism.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Audit your inputs: replace one cultural voice with daily Scripture/sermon intake.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 19 — Finishing Well: Hold the Line, Keep the Vow

Big Idea: Finish in faith: stand, remain, reconcile; reject the merry-go-round of sin.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Heb. 12:1–3; Gal. 6:9; 2 Tim. 4:7

Facilitator Notes

- Define finishing well: remain, reconcile, keep vows.
- Cut entanglements that block reconciliation.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Identify one entanglement; cut it off; add one church accountability tie.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Workbook: Chapter 20 — Covenant Renewal & A House of Prayer

Big Idea: Renew the covenant before God; commit to a lasting house of prayer.

Key Scriptures (read aloud): Neh. 9:38; Josh. 24:15; James 5:16

Facilitator Notes

- Lead a covenant renewal moment; establish house-of-prayer commitments.
- Set pastoral follow-up cadence.

Affirmable Responses

- Personal repentance before accusation.
- Commitment to remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Daily prayer together and Scripture agreement (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6).
- Setting righteous boundaries with pastoral oversight (not revenge, not enabling).

Missteps to Correct

- Loophole-hunting in Matthew instead of harmonizing the Gospels.
- Using pain to justify sin (“God wants me happy”).
- Calling covenant “bondage.”
- Seeking a new partner while a spouse lives.

Action Step (assign and check next week)

Sign a simple covenant renewal; schedule weekly prayer + monthly elder check-in.

Prayer Prompt

“Lord, give us soft hearts and clean hands. We agree with Your Word. We repent of our treachery and pride. Make our home a house of prayer. Restore what sin has damaged, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Appendix A: Quick Scriptures by Topic

- Covenant & One Flesh: Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4–6; Eph. 5:31–32
- God Hates Divorce: Mal. 2:13–16
- No Remarriage While Spouse Lives: Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11–12; 1 Cor. 7:10–11, 39; Rom. 7:2–3
- Repentance & Restoration: Acts 17:30–31; Luke 13:3; 2 Cor. 7:10; Gal. 6:1
- Children & Generations: Mal. 2:15; Matt. 18:6; Ps. 127:3
- Spiritual Warfare: Eph. 6:10–18; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8

Appendix B: Handling Hard Cases (Safety, Separation, Discipline)

- Safety first: If there is danger, help the vulnerable separate for protection and involve civil authorities/elders.
- Separation ≠ permission to remarry; path remains remain-or-reconcile (1 Cor. 7:10–11).
- Church discipline aims at restoration; keep steps Matthew 18:15–20; Gal. 6:1.