

Week of Oct 3 to 9, 2021
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Suggested preparation:

1. Pray with the readings for the week. [Sunday Mass Readings for October 3, 2021](https://catholicreadings.org/2021/10/03/), 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (catholicreadings.org)
2. Listen to and reflect on the Dynamic Catholic video, [Two Shall Become One](#) . You should have received an email on Thursday assuming you subscribed last week. If not, go to the bottom of the page and subscribe.

<Leaders, to share this link with your group, click on it to open it in a browser, then copy and paste the url into an email>
3. Understand what [divorce](#) meant in Jesus' time.
4. A [reflection](#) on this Sunday's readings.
5. Listen carefully to Father's homily. What resonated with you? What challenged you?

Leader Preparation:

Decide which two people are going to read the scripture this week and ensure they have access to the scripture text (see links below).

For those who wish, when you click on this [Power Point](#) link, you will be asked if you wish to make a copy of the presentation. Click on the blue "Make a Copy" button and the file will be added to your Google drive. Feel free to edit in any way you like, you have a copy not the original.

Small Group

Gathering Prayer:

< Begin the time together with prayer. Feel free to use this prayer, or another prayer of your choosing.>

Creator God, You call us into a relationship with You and each other. Lord Jesus, help us to foster strong and lasting relationships which strengthen our community of Love. Holy Spirit, nurture our relationships so that we may grow closer to You.
Amen

Getting to Know Each Other (Please keep responses to 1 - 2 minutes)

Who are your favourite people to spend time with? Why?

OR

Select one of the Icebreakers from the [Small Group Leader Resources page](#).

Scripture Reading

Introduction: *<Take a moment to set the tone.>*

Leader: Do you prefer to spend time alone or with others? Why?

<Decide whether or not you want to ask group members to share or simply reflect.>

Leader: We are going to listen to the gospel reading for this past Sunday. Be prepared to share a word or phrase that speaks to you in this reading.

Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts as we listen to the word of God.

<brief pause>

Reader 1 Read the gospel reading out loud slowly and prayerfully.

Gospel – [Mark 10:2-16](#)

._<brief pause to reflect>

Leader: What word or phrase jumps out at you? For now, just state a word or phrase, you will have a chance to explain in a few moments.

<After members have had a chance to share, invite them to listen to the reading a second time.>

Reader 2: Reread the gospel.

Gospel – [Mark 10:2-16](#)

<brief pause to reflect>

Leader:

<Invite members to share why they chose the word or phrase that they did and why/ how it is speaking to them today.>

How is this scripture speaking to you today in your life?

<Give members time to share their thoughts. Then invite them to reflect on the video.>

When you listened to the video gospel reflection, what resonated with you?

Discussion Questions: <leaders, feel free to pick and choose>

1. God's original plan for marriage was that a man and woman 'become one flesh'. This teaching is a call to each one of us to live out our own vocation in life as wholeheartedly as possible, allowing that because of human weakness the ideal is not always totally achievable. What are the characteristics or qualities of a loving, faithful relationship?
2. The Catholic Church recognizes marriage as a sacrament. What does this mean to you? How does it differ from a civil marriage?
3. In the Dynamic Catholic video this week we hear about Carlton who demonstrates a deep devotion and love for his wife Maggie. Are there people in your life who demonstrate a similar devotion to each other? What is their impact on you? Is there a time when you made a sacrifice in your life for another person? What gave you the strength to do so?
4. What supports have helped you in your relationships over the years? How do you support the relationships of family and friends?
5. What supports can we as a parish community offer to couples and their families?

Closing Prayer

<Invite members to share any intentions that they would like the group to pray for. Lead the group in prayer in these or similar words.>

Lord of all, You planned for us to be in loving relationship with You from the beginning. You gave us the Sacrament of Marriage to witness Your love to the world and with each other. Help us to be true to each other and to strengthen our marriages wherever possible. Holy Spirit heal those whose marriage has proven too much and help our community to bring them understanding, healing and hope.

Amen