

THE GREAT DIVORCE



THE GREAT DIVORCE PODCAST | Week 6

Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

- Spend some time discussing your weeks so far. What have been some exciting moments? What did you think of church this past weekend?

Context (30 to 40 minutes)

Discuss the podcast and the chapters for this week. What particularly stood out to you from either the book or the recording?

CHAPTER 10

- What are your impressions of the female ghost? What about her husband, Robert? Have you ever known someone like this?
- The female ghost makes a claim that she “can forgive, but not forget.” This phrase is a commonality in our world and culture. How do you understand this? Is there a way to make this line up with our faith? What does forgiveness mean to you?
- We see that the female ghost has attached herself and her own worth to the success and stature of her husband (and as a result, she did all she could to create that success within him). How are we called to see our own worth? How does Christ determine worth and success?
- The female ghost claims she sacrificed so much for Robert and that he was never truly grateful. How would you define true sacrifice? How do we recognize sacrifice in others, and what is the best way for us to demonstrate gratitude for it?
- The ghost finally admits that in Hell, she is miserable because she can’t “change anyone.” Have you ever tried to offer someone advice on how to improve themselves? What is the difference between that and the perspective of this ghost?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. This passage has become one of the most famous passages on love that we know. Paul explains how love is present in our lives. This verse is often used at weddings and discussed in conversations around marriage. However, Paul makes no distinction about what kind of love he's referring to. Instead, the concepts of love here are universal. How do you understand this verse in the context of your own life? What are some practical steps you can take to live out the love Paul describes with your spouse, your children, your neighbors, and the rest of your community?

CHAPTER 11

- In this chapter, we see a mom, Pam, concerned about her son, Michael. Her guide explains that her biggest issue is that she only desires Michael and has yet to desire love for God or for anyone else for that matter. If you are a parent, how do you react to this claim? If you are not a parent, is this something you can see or understand in your relationship with your own parents?
- In this story, Pam is upset and grieving over her son's death. Can you empathize with her in her grief? What is the healthiest way for us to grieve loved ones, and how do we keep our eyes focused on God in the midst of that grief?
- Pam claims that she will love God if doing so allows her to have access to her son again. This perspective - I'll love God but only if I get what I want - is prevalent in a lot of our lives and culture. Have you seen anyone express this? How do you react to it? How does this line up with teachings from scripture and theology?
- What were your first thoughts of the story with the lizard? In the book, the lizard represents lust. However, in the podcast, it is also said it could be used to describe something like greed. Can you think of any other vices that seem to have a hold on us like this?
- When threatened, the lizard attempts to deceive the ghost into preventing it from happening. Do you ever tell yourself lies or half-truths to justify your failings and sin?
- Why did the lizard need to be killed? Why can't the lizard remain small and enter into Heaven with the Ghost? Why is this something that couldn't be done gradually or done later?
- How do you interpret the idea that the lizard is transformed into a great horse? What does this say about things like goodness and corruption?

Next Week

Read Chapters 12, 13 & 14 and/or listen to episodes 14 & 15 of the podcast.

- What takeaways would you like to commit to this week?

Closing (5 minutes)

God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

Closing Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.