

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 2
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is 2 people and Christ - it is mutual love and abandon to each other. Strength comes from this institution God created, and you can have strength. Surrender your pride; learn to grow into what the other needs because that is part of your responsibility in Christ. God's desire is that you enjoy one another for a lifetime.

DISCUSSION

Discuss God's use of the marriage metaphor and how that relates to the church as His bride.

EXPLANATION

Read Exodus 34:10-17

Why do you think God is so sure these people will lead His people astray?

Do you think God has too low an expectation for his people?

How do you think God is simply stating a fact of reality in Exodus 34:10-17?

If you are married, how important is your marriage covenant to you?

Do you think God should be any less concerned about His covenant with His people?

APPLICATION

Is there anything you know you could do to make yourself more attractive to your spouse?

If you don't have a spouse, is there anything you could do to make yourself more of a catch for someone?

Do you make a sincere effort to remain attractive to your spouse (or for the one you hope to have some day)?

Does your spouse know that you think they are beautiful?

How do you show them this?

MISSION

One of the questions from the message to ask your spouse this week was, "Is there anything in my character that you find unattractive?"

As a follow-up, is there anything in your character that Jesus would find unattractive? AND, is there anything in your character that those around you, who you are to display the gospel to, would find unattractive?



SUMMER OF LOVE

THE SHE

Week 2 Notes
& SCRIPTURE VERSES

Philippians 4:8
Genesis 2:18-25

Job 31:1
1 Kings 1:1-4

Song of Solomon 1:1-7
Ecclesiastes 9:9



THE SHE - SOS 1:1-7

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

The use of the marriage metaphor to describe the relationship of God to His people is almost universal in Scripture. From the time that God chose Israel to be his own in the Sinai Desert, the covenant was pictured in terms of a marriage. Idolatry was equated with adultery, and God is a jealous God. Monogamous marriage is the norm for depicting the covenant relationship throughout Scripture, finding its fulfillment in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. God has chosen a bride; His church.

We tend to view the covenant-marriage relationship as an example of how human created historical realities can be used as analogies to explain eternal truths. Some say the human marriage is the original reference, and the union of God with his people is seen as the union of a loving husband and wife. Our earthly “normal” lives are used to explain the divine and the eternal.

In reality, there is much in Scripture to suggest that we should reverse this line of thought. Otherwise, the union of Christ with his bride is a good copy of a bad original. The truth is that the original reference is not human marriage, it is God's elect love, first to Israel and then to the church.

In Genesis 2 God gives a suitable helper to the man. The woman is first called an *ezer*, a helper that corresponds to Adam's humanity. Adam sings “*This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man*”. The literal Hebrew rendering is “this one at last.” As opposed to all the other animals, Adam has found his right soul mate at last...and it is God who has brought her to him.

WHAT DO WE SEE?

- God made our bodies, male and female, and said it was good.
You need to see your body as a good gift from God.
- 1 Man + 1 Woman + 1 Lifetime = Marriage
This is the context for sexual union.
- The standard for beauty is your spouse.
Adam didn't have 100 dates, he had a WIFE.
- Sex is for oneness and is not to be connected with shame.

THREE MAIN PLAYERS IN THE BOOK:

- The He - The man, Solomon; His father is David, his mom is Bathsheba.
- The She - The woman; the book never identifies her.
- The We - The community who loves this young couple.

Most women, statistically, are insecure in their appearance. Every woman has things about themselves they wish they could change - BUT SHE IS BEAUTIFUL TO HER HUSBAND.

- **Are you a good steward of your body? Do you make a sincere effort to remain attractive to your spouse?**

Marriage is 2 people and Christ - it is mutual love and abandon to each other. Strength comes from this institution God created, and you can have strength. Surrender your pride; learn to grow into what the other needs because that is part of your responsibility in Christ. God's desire is that you enjoy one another for your lifetime.