

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 10
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

God loves us and has acted in history to express that love. What does that look like? It looks like Jesus. Jesus is God coming to us in love. Sheer unadulterated, unfiltered love.

DISCUSSION

What is one word, other than the word “love,” that makes a marriage last?
Explain.

EXPLANATION

Read Hebrews 13:4 (yes, I know you did this a few weeks ago).

In what ways do you fight in a *non* pure way?

In what ways do you fight fair?

Do you think you are objective when it comes to disagreements?

-if you say yes, you are not objective.

If you are single, what problems do you already know YOU HAVE that need to be taken care of BEFORE you get married?

APPLICATION

In your relationships with your friends, what critters have gotten into the garden?

If you feel safe enough, what critters have cropped up in the vineyard in your marriage (past or present)?

How do you deal with those?

What are the most important things, that you know, that can produce oneness in a relationship (especially a marriage)?

MISSION

Identify the couple that has been married the longest in your community group.

Ask them what critters they have noticed in their garden throughout the years.

Ask them, “what were the worst” and “what were the easiest” to get rid of.

Find out who they have allowed to speak truth into their lives.

Ask them how they are speaking truth into others lives (and you how you can as well).



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FIGHTING &

RESTORATION PART 1 (5:2-7)

Week 10 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES

Song of Solomon 5:2-7

Proverbs 27:15

Song of Solomon 2:15

Hebrews 13:4

Revelation 3:20



FIGHTING & RESTORATION PART 1 (5:2-7)

Proverbs 27:15 “A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome wife are alike”

In chapter two of Solomon's song, the woman asks for someone to catch the foxes, those things that would destroy their marriage. Just as the two lovers are about to surrender themselves to each other and forget the world, they have a sobering thought and their attention is turned to the larger world. The appeal is made here to outsiders to prevent “the foxes,” those forces that could destroy the purity of their love, from defiling their vineyards, which are blossoming. So they plead for protection for the love that blossoms between them; that nothing will spoil it.

The enemy wants your marriage to fail. Foxes in vineyards = husbands and wives in LIFE.

What are the priorities (what's the order).

1. Mature as a believer - read your bible, pray, seek God
2. Love your spouse
3. Be a good parent
4. Everything else you do (job etc)

Don't invert the priorities.

- Jesus should be the center
- Marriage is the priority
- Children are loved a welcomed into the marriage.

Your differences will drive you insane.

- Find a workable solution to your problems (care about how the other person feels).
- Let some things go.
- Understand there are seasons that are just hard.

John Gottman, a researcher at University of Washington, did a study where he found four attitudes in particular that were markers of impending divorce (called them the 4 horsemen of divorce).

- Criticism
- Contempt
- Defensiveness - Not taking responsibility.
- Stonewalling

Gottman says that when people live like this it degenerates into parallel lonely lives. It is why the scripture remind us in Hebrews 13:4 “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled.”

One commentator suggests that the text we look at today was in the mind of John when he was writing part of the Book of Revelation (3:20) “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Rylaarsdam says that this is “the one instance in which the NT clearly uses the Song of Songs”.

For some people this is an entirely new perspective of God. Many of the popular images of God are of a warrior, a creator, a judge, a Father (which are all true), but He is also a Lover. A lover whose heart has been crushed and He expresses it in poetry. The story the Bible tells us of a living God who loves, and who continues to love, even when that love is not returned.

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