

THE MARRIAGE MYSTERY

MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

READ THE TEXT - What phrases, words, or instructions stick out to you?

THE POWER OF LOVE

1. What are some of the things love is compared to in this passage?
 - Which quality strikes you the most? Why?
2. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10 and Ephesians 5:2 and compare them to Song of Solomon 8:6-7. How does Christ model perfect love in his love for us?
 - What are your personal weaknesses when it comes to this kind of sacrificial love?
 - How would your relationship with your spouse look differently if you modeled this love (as described in 2 Tim. 1:8-10, Eph. 5:2, and Song of Solomon 8:6-7) to him/her? How would your relationships with others look differently?
3. Reread verse 7. In what ways has our culture devalued love and traded it for lesser things? What have you personally been tempted to trade true love for?

REVIEWING "THE MARRIAGE MYSTERY"

1. Which week of this sermon series (foundation, design, intimacy, grace) has challenged you the most? Why?
2. How have your relationships changed or deepened as a result of the series?
 - Consider your relationship with your spouse, if you are married, as well as your relationship with God, with those of the opposite gender, and with those whose relationship status differs from yours.
3. What was your definition of love prior to this sermon series? What is your definition of love now?
4. In what areas do you want to continue to grow?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Take out your wallet and ask your children how much money they have in their piggy banks. After adding it all up, ask: "Is this how much love is worth?" Together, discuss why love is more valuable than money.
2. Get a large bowl or container and fill it with water. Take out an empty plastic water bottle or a stick and ask the children if they think it will sink or float. Together, discuss how love, just like this object, cannot be drowned no matter what.
3. Ask: how is the love that mommies and daddies have for each other similar to the love that God has for us? How is it different?

APPLICATION

- Take some time to pray for marriages in the following ways:
 - Pray for marriages you know are going through a difficult season right now. Pray that they would show humility toward their spouse and seek reconciliation in a loving and understanding way.
 - Pray for those who are unmarried, that they would submit all of their hopes, desires, and plans regarding marriage to the Lord. Pray that they would be content with God's providence for their life.
 - Pray for those who have experienced the difficulties of divorce. Ask for God to sustain them and for them to cling to Christ, the sure and steady anchor for the soul.
- Whatever situation you are in, whether single, married, separated, divorced, or widowed, think of at least three people you know who are in a different situation than you are. Write down their names and commit to praying for them. Also commit to encouraging them in their situation and then tell them how you see God using them for his kingdom in their present circumstance.

For additional Marriage Mystery Discussion Guide content & resources, visit yourchurch.com/marriagemystery.