

Small Group Guide

Week of February 4, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

God's Design for Intimacy



Icebreaker



- Who was your celebrity crush growing up?
- What's your favorite love song?



Discussion



- What parts of the sermon hit home for you? Was there anything you really agreed or disagreed with?
- What are some ways our society promotes a "contract" view of marriage rather than a "covenant" view?
- What can we do to have each other's backs and strengthen the covenant in our own marriage or the marriages around us?
- How have you seen the world try to mess up and distort God's good gifts when it comes to sex and intimacy?
- How can we help each other embrace God's design for sex and intimacy?
- What boundaries or guidelines have been helpful for you in experiencing intimacy and connection in your marriage? Or boundaries in saving intimacy for marriage?
- For those whose marriages or past relationships have been damaged, how have you experienced God's redemption and grace? How can we support you?
- The sermon talked about marriage being worth fighting for, investing in, and celebrating. If you're married, what practical ways can you fight for, invest in, and celebrate your marriage this week?



Thought for the Group



In today's culture, marriage is often treated as a contract - transactional and conditional. But God designed it as a covenant - a sacred, unbreakable promise. Despite what the world says, marriage is worth fighting for and investing in daily.

Like Solomon, we must use words to admire our spouse and build intimacy emotionally. Describe what you appreciate about them. Celebrate your marriage publicly, not just privately.

The Song of Solomon illustrates God's design for romance.

Solomon poetically praises his bride from head to toe. This models how intimate affection in marriage is vital and beautiful.

But evil distorts God's gifts. It twists sexuality to feed selfish lusts. As Christ-followers, we must push back on these distortions and live within God's guardrails for marriage.

Marriage is the sacred space intended for full sexual joy and passion. "Awake my love!" shows the importance of waiting for the right timing, then embracing marital intimacy.

No matter our past, God redeems and restores brokenness. His grace gives hope. He invites us into a story of redemption and relationship.

Pursuing intimacy means leaning into God's design for marriage - the blueprint for deep connection.



Next Steps



- If you're struggling with sexual temptation, establish clear boundaries and accountability. Confess where needed and commit to living purely. Don't compromise who you're called to be in Christ.
- Assess your media intake (movies, music, internet) and cut out anything that promotes sexual immorality. Fill your mind with things that are admirable and praiseworthy.
- Invest in friendships and mentors who can support you in living out God's design for sexuality.