



Take It Deeper //

“Five Keys for a Healthy Love Life”

Opening Question:

What's your favorite love song and why?

Key Takeaways:

1. God's way for relationships is not only right, it works.
2. The Song of Solomon teaches principles for healthy, God-centered relationships.
3. Love, romance, marriage, and sex are gifts from God within the context of marriage.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor DC mentioned five principles from Song of Solomon. Which one stood out to you most and why?
2. How does our culture's view of love and relationships differ from what we see in Song of Solomon?
3. The sermon emphasized spiritual attraction before physical attraction. How can we cultivate spiritual attractiveness in our lives?

4. What are some practical ways we can use our words to build up our relationships rather than tear them down?

5. We talked about "not awakening love before its time." What are some challenges young people face today in this area? How can we support them?

6. How can we apply the principle of "going to the garden" (spending time with God) when we face conflicts in our relationships?

7. What does it mean to "fight fair" in a relationship? Share an example of how you've done this well or where you've struggled.

8. How can we cultivate a "mature and lasting love story" in our relationships, whether we're single, dating, or married?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally speak words of affirmation to someone close to you each day.

2. If you're in a relationship, discuss and agree on some "fight fair" rules like those mentioned in the sermon.

3. Singles: Make a list of spiritual qualities you want to develop in yourself and look for in a potential partner.

4. Married couples: Set aside time each day this week to "go to the garden" together - pray or read Scripture as a couple.

5. For everyone: Reflect on how you can make your relationship with God your top priority, allowing it to shape all your other relationships.

Devotional Guide:

Day 1: Spiritual Attraction

Reading: Song of Solomon 1:5-7

Devotional: The Song of Solomon reminds us that true beauty goes beyond physical appearance. God values a heart that seeks Him above all else. As you read today's passage, reflect on what it means to be spiritually attractive. How can you cultivate inner beauty that reflects Christ's love? Consider ways you can deepen your relationship with God, whether through worship, Bible study, or acts of service. Remember, a vibrant spiritual life not only draws you closer to God but also makes you more attractive to others who are seeking authentic faith.

Day 2: The Power of Affirming Words

Reading: Proverbs 16:24, Ephesians 4:29

Devotional: Our words have incredible power to build up or tear down. In the Song of Solomon, we see lovers using affirming language to strengthen their bond. Similarly, God speaks words of love and affirmation over us. As you meditate on today's verses, think about how you can use your words to encourage others and reflect God's love. Challenge yourself to speak life-giving words to someone today, whether a family member, friend, or even a stranger. By doing so, you're not only blessing others but also creating an atmosphere of love that honors God.

Day 3: Waiting on God's Timing

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Isaiah 40:31

Devotional: The repeated phrase in Song of Solomon, "Do not awaken love until the time is right," teaches us the importance of patience and trusting God's timing. In a world that often pushes for instant gratification, waiting can be challenging. Yet, God's perfect timing brings the best outcomes in our lives. Reflect on areas where you might be rushing ahead of God. How can you cultivate patience and trust in His timing? Remember, waiting isn't passive - use this time to grow in faith and prepare for what God has in store for you.

Day 4: Navigating Conflicts with Grace

Reading: James 1:19-20, Colossians 3:12-14

Devotional: Even in the most loving relationships, conflicts arise. The Song of Solomon doesn't shy away from this reality but shows us how to navigate disagreements with grace. Today's passages remind us to approach conflicts with patience, understanding, and love. As you read, consider how you typically handle conflicts. Are there areas where you need to grow in patience or forgiveness? Remember, resolving conflicts God's way not only strengthens our relationships but also reflects Christ's love to the world.

Day 5: Cultivating Lasting Love

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, John 15:9-17

Devotional: The Song of Solomon portrays a mature, lasting love that reflects God's covenant love for us. This kind of love isn't based on fleeting emotions but on daily choices to put the other person first. As you read today's passages, reflect on God's perfect love for you and how it serves as a model for all relationships. How can you demonstrate this kind of selfless love in your interactions today? Remember, every act of love, no matter how small, is a reflection of God's great love for us and a step towards cultivating lasting, meaningful relationships.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His design for love and relationships. Ask for His wisdom in applying these principles in your life, whether single or in a relationship.