


SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / SEPTEMBER 22

TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

 **15 minutes.** Pull up the 40 Days of Prayer guide (Daily Revival in the Summit app or online). Break up into smaller groups of three to four people and pray through today's entry in the 40 DOP guide. Use the Scripture and prayer prompts provided to guide this time in prayer.

Read

Read Song of Songs 1:1–15 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “If you are looking for lifelong love, in the dating process you will prioritize character, because that is a beauty that lasts after the butterflies fade.”
- “Become the person that the person you are looking for is looking for.”
- “What Song of Songs is showing you is that the purpose of dating is to give you space to gain clarity about their character.”

Group Discussion

1. In Song of Songs 1:3, the woman praises the man's reputation. How does the idea that "character trumps beauty" challenge cultural views on attraction today?
2. What do you think it means for a relationship to be built on spiritual, emotional, and physical oneness (the “right-side up pyramid”)? How can we apply this?
3. The sermon mentions dating for clarity, not intimacy. How can seeking wise counsel from community help bring clarity in a romantic relationship?
4. In what ways does the ultimate fulfillment found in God (rather than in romantic love) impact how we approach relationships, whether single or married?

SCRIPTURE

- Ephesians 5:25–28:** “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

PRAYER

- Ask God to strengthen marriages in our congregation by deepening mutual love, security, and encouragement, building on the foundation of spiritual and emotional oneness.
- Pray that God would enable us to seek fulfillment in his love above all, whether single or married, and trust him with our relational futures.