

// Sermon Discussion Guide //

April 22, 2012

Topic: “Wedding Song”

READ & REFLECT

1 Corinthians 13

OBSERVE & APPLY

1. What particular point or principle from the sermon this week most challenged, confused you or caught your attention?
2. In the sermon Jeff says real, lasting love consists of three things; passion [physical], intimacy [emotional], and commitment [spiritual]. Discuss as a group how they work together to grow a Godly marriage.
3. Dr. Gary Chapman’s *New York Times* bestseller *The 5 Love Languages* unlock simple ways to love and be loved. Take a few minutes and read these out loud. **Place a “1” beside your primary love language and a “2” beside your secondary love language.** Discuss in your group.

_____ **Words of Affirmation** Actions don’t always speak louder than words. If this is your love language, unsolicited compliments mean the world to you. Hearing the words, “I love you,” are important—hearing the reasons behind that love sends your spirits skyward. Insults can leave you shattered and are not easily forgotten.

_____ **Quality Time** Nothing says, “I love you,” like full, undivided attention. Being there for this type of person is critical, but really being there—with the TV off, fork and knife down, and all chores and tasks on standby—makes your significant other feel truly special and loved. Distractions, postponed dates, or the failure to listen can be especially hurtful.

_____ **Receiving Gifts** If you speak this language, the perfect gift or gesture shows that you are known, you are cared for, and you are prized above whatever was sacrificed to bring the gift to you. A missed birthday, anniversary, or a hasty, thoughtless gift would be disastrous—so would the absence of everyday gestures.

_____ **Acts of Service** Can vacuuming the floors really be an expression of love? Absolutely! Anything you do to ease the burden of responsibilities weighing on an “Acts of Service” person will speak volumes. Laziness, broken commitments, and making more work for them tell speakers of this language their feelings don’t matter.

_____ **Physical Touch** This language isn’t all about the bedroom. Hugs, pats on the back, holding hands, and thoughtful touches on the arm, shoulder, or face—they can all be ways to show excitement, concern, care, and love. Physical presence and accessibility are crucial, while neglect or abuse can be unforgivable and destructive.

4. What do you think of the idea that a marriage can be strengthened, not *in spite of* the problems a relationship faces but *because of* them?

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5. How has busyness crept into your relationships? What are specific things couples can do to keep busyness from creeping in?
6. Looking back over the sermon and study what additional points do you want to keep in mind during the next week?
7. Close by praying for the marriages of friends and family; conclude your time in prayer praying for your marriages.

RESOURCES

5 Love Languages – FREE on line assessment <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love/>
FREE counseling 1-800-AFAMILY for parenting or marriage issues from <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>
Pastoral Counseling Pastor Bud Lamb bud@rollhillchurch.com