

### WEEK FIVE : FOR AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE

# WELCOME:

Ice Breaker: What's your all-time favorite love song?

## WORSHIP:

Sing, CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED

### Introduction:

God's way is always better than ours, and today we learn the various aspects of lasting love and how it matures over time, according to God's design. While the world's narrative suggests that love can be temporary, lasting love according to God's way is permanent. Commitment helps to sustain relationships through those difficult times, inspiring us to fight for and always protect our spouses. All relationships built on God's model are lasting, but successful relationships take worklove is a choice we must make every day.

### WORD: Song of Solomon 7:1-8:14

#### **Observation Questions:**

1) How would you summarize the entire chapter 7 of Song of Solomon?

- 2) How would you summarize chapter 8?
- 3) What does chapter 8 verse 6 say about love?
- 4) What does chapter 8 verse 7 say about love?

Today's final installment from Solomon's "Song of Songs" reinforces our goal for the series which is to understand how to love others according to God's way:

- 1. Godly love is permanent. Song of Solomon 8:7.
- 2. Godly love is persevering. Song of Solomon 8:8-9.
- **3. Godly love is protective.** Song of Solomon 8:10.
- 4. Godly love is peaceful. Song of Solomon 8:11-14.

We are commanded to "put on" love. (Colossians 3:14)

Our capacity to love comes from being loved. (1 John 4:19)

### **Application Questions:**

1. Discuss the four characteristics of lasting love: permanent, persevering, protective, and peaceful. Which come naturally to you? Which do you have to work on the most?

2. How does the world's view differ from God's view of lasting love?

3. How can we make God be preeminent in our relationship to honor marriage as He designed it? Think of practical ways.

4. How can we celebrate the romance and partnership that God has given us in practical ways?

5. How can you intentionally develop lasting love in your relationships with spouses, friends, etc.?

# WORK:

- Prayer Focus: Thank God for your relationships, and ask Him to reveal areas within them where you need to commit to more work.
- Pray that He will be the source of forgiveness and restoration in your love relationships. Ask for His protection and for His strength and boldness to fight when necessary. Submit your relationships to God and ask that He bring peace through the difficulties. Ask God for His way to be the center of all your relationships.
- Be intentional and seek ways to apply this message to your relationships. Make the choice to put on love rather than rely on your feelings.