**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.**

1. *Do you have any examples of long-term healthy marriages that you look up to? What about these marriages do you hope emulate in your own relationships?*
2. *When you turn 80, what do you envision for your marriage? What steps do you need to take today, to make it to 80 and still be happily married?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekends message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

**In Song of Solomon Chapter 8, we find Solomon and his Shulamite wife old and grey and yet still thriving in their love for one another. Solomon and his wife provide us with a vision for what marriage looks like as we age. When we live everyday in view of our marital commitment of, “ Until death do us part” we set ourselves up to experince the best God has for us over a lifetime of marriage. In Life group today, we will take a look at another passage in scripture that gives us a vision of how to live together to make it till death do us part.**

* *As a group, spend some time reading through Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-33. Write down any observations, questions, important insights you gain from reading the text.*

*When it comes to loving others, especially our spouses, who are we encouraged to emulate? (See Ephesians 5:1-2) What does it look to love this way? What examples of this kind of love do we have around us?*

*In Ephesians 5:15-17 we are encouraged to “ look carefully” or examine the way we walk. Looking at your current relationships, do you know what the will of the Lord is for your relationships? How might we go about discovering the will of the Lord for our marriages?*

*In Ephesians 5:21 we are encouraged, “ to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” How do we practically do this? Why is reverence for Christ a key component for submission to our spouses? What happens to our relationships when we do not revere Christ?*

**Digging Deeper**

*On Sunday Pastor Jason presented 4 Steps from Song of Solomon 8 that will help us make it till death do us part in our relationships; Don’t Stop Pursuing, Don't Stop Committing, Don’t Stop Protecting & Don’t Stop Believing. How do we see these 4 steps presented in Ephesians 5?*

*Of the 4 Steps discussed above which ones do you find the easiest? Which ones do you find the hardest? Which step will you make a commitment to actively work on improving?*

 **“TILL DEATH DO US PART”**

**Song of Solomon 8:1-14**

**Song of Solomon 8:5 (ESV)** *5Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor.*

**HOW TO MAKE IT TILL DEATH DO US PART?**

***DON'T STOP PURSUING***

* ***EVERY DAY TAKE A STEP TOWARDS GOD & EACH OTHER***

**Song of Solomon 8:1-4 (ESV)***Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother’s breasts! If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would despise me. 2I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother— she who used to teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate. 3His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me! 4I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.*

***DON'T STOP COMMITTING***

* ***EVERY DAY COMMIT TO UNTIL DEATH DO US PART***

***Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (ESV)*** *6Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord. 7Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.*

***Love = Ahava*** *“ A love that clings, Inseparable love.”*

***Romans 8:35, 38-39 (ESV)*** *35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 38For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

***DON’T STOP PROTECTING***

* ***EVERY DAY PROTECT YOUR PURITY***

***Song of Solomon 8:8-10 (ESV)****We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for? 9If she is a wall, we will build on her a battlement of silver, but if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar. 10I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace.*

***DON'T STOP BELIEVING***

* ***EVERY DAY BELIEVE THE BEST IS YET TO COME***

***Song of Solomon 8:11-14 (ESV)*** *11Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers; each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver. 12My vineyard, my very own, is before me; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred. 13O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it. 14Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.*