

# STUDY GUIDE

1. What was your view of marriage growing up?
2. This week we conclude our series, "Holy Sexuality," with a focus on sexuality and marriage. We will look at various passages in this study. Before you begin, take some time to pray, asking God to speak to you and transform you through this study.
3. Whether you are studying alone or with a group, read Genesis 2:20-25 aloud. What level of commitment do you see in these verses about the marriage relationship before God?
4. How is this similar to or different from the view of marriage in our world today?
5. Now read Song of Songs 8:4-14 aloud. This passage is a richly poetic and almost surprising expression of the joys of love in marriage. What are the different aspects of love that you see in these verses?
6. How does the community celebrate and guard love in this passage?
7. What are one or two ways in which the example of the lovers in Song of Songs is helpful to you right now?
8. Next we want to look at the challenges to married sexuality from Proverbs 5:1-23. Read that passage aloud and identify a few of the main challenges to holy sexuality in marriage.
9. What antidotes to these challenges are presented in these verses?
10. After looking at the challenges, it is clear that we cannot live this out from our own resources. What are some of the keys to committed sexuality in marriage from Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33?
11. What is the "profound mystery" that Paul connects to the marriage relationship in Ephesians 5:31-33? Why is this important?
12. What is one major takeaway you have from this week's study? If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone this week. If you are in a group, take time to pray for one another about these things.

**[Next week is a Family Worship Weekend. Join us for a special message from Pastor Mark Lynch. Please note that on Family Worship Weekends, there are no classes for children, students or adults. You will find resources on your way into the Worship Hall for kids.]**

# WORSHIP

*Again I Say Rejoice*

## **Welcome & Prayer**

*I Surrender All*

## **Prayer of Confession**

*Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)*

*Jesus Paid It All (O Praise the One)*

*Forever Reign*

## **Prayers for One Another**

## **Offerings of Gifts & Tithes**

*Christ Be All Around Me*

Erica Breitbarth & Deanna Breitbarth

## **Message**

*Sex and Marriage*

*How He Loves*

*You Are My King*

As we respond to God's Word today, you may want to pray further with someone. Members of our Prayer Team will be at the front of the Worship Hall after the service, ready to pray with you. You may also use the Connect Card in the seatback to share prayer requests with Church Pastors and Staff. Large print bulletins are available at the entrances to the Worship Hall.



**AUGUST 29/30, 2015**

## Sex and Marriage

HOLY SEXUALITY | AUGUST 29/30, 2015 | MATT & KELLY ERICKSON

GENESIS 2:20-25; SONG OF SONG 8:4-14; PROVERBS 5:1-23; EPHESIANS 5:1-2, 21-33

*"Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned."* (Song of Songs 8:7)

### **Sexuality and the Covenant of Marriage** (Genesis 2:20-25)

- Powerful partners in the world
- Covenant relationship and sexuality

### **The Joy of Married Sexuality** (Song of Songs 8:4-14)

- Timeliness
- Verbal intimacy
- Physical intimacy
- Emotional intimacy
- Spiritual Intimacy
- Community

### **Challenges to Married Sexuality** (Proverbs 5:15-23)

- Living within appropriate limits
- Choosing to delight
- Taking drastic measures with sin

### **Sexuality and Sacrificial Love** (Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33)

- The key focus
- Self-sacrificing love
- A profound mystery