

Life Group Lesson - Week of May 28

Read II Samuel 12:1-20

God lifted David, a shepherd from Bethlehem, to rise up and shepherd God's sheep, the nation of Israel. David was blessed with victories, protection from enemies, wives, children, an incredible army, a lasting dynasty. But one afternoon in a weak moment, when healthy boundaries were ignored, David fell sway to sensual desire. King David stole another man's wife while that man was on the battlefield fighting on behalf of David and Israel.

When Nathan the priest confronted David, he did confess his sin and repent. But there were severe consequences set in motion. When we confess and repent, God graciously forgives. But like a garden, sin must be weeded out and sexual intimacy must be managed and treasured within the fidelity of covenantal love if it is to yield a harvest of beauty. The first marriage was in a garden. The first sexual experience was in a garden. What lies and deception need to be uprooted from your heart?

Read Genesis 2:4-9, 18-25

It is never okay to engage in sex outside of marriage. Although we see clearly throughout history that to violate this truth is to give ground to the enemy, our culture is still driven by sex.

Close your eyes and see from heaven's view for a moment. Imagine sitting beside the Lord in a place of holiness and beauty. Now look upon our culture. See how this world trashes the gift of sexual intimacy. Do you think God's heart breaks over this issue? What makes you sad about the scene below?

When you think about what God said: "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one" (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5)—why is sex in marriage a gift to be treasured?

Whether married or single exposing your garden, your most private treasure, to weeds, thorns, and pests will ultimately choke the joy out of your relationship with the Lord. "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God" (1 Corinthians 6:19). Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church, and that includes you. No other union on earth more clearly reflects the mystery of the intimate love Christ has for His bride.

Read **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**. "Run from sexual sin" physically if you have to! What can you learn from king David, how could he have run from sexual sin?

Read **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**. Like a stray weed that can overrun your garden, an unholy thought is an undesirable "plant" in the wrong place. Whether married or single, what weeds do you need uprooted from your garden?

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Text: 2 Samuel 12:1-20; Genesis 2:4-9,18-25

**Plain Truth: Sex is a good gift if shared _____
and in _____ love.**

- 1) Sex is a _____ gift of _____.
- 2) There is more pleasure in _____ love.
- 3) _____ the garden so that your sexual pleasure can grow.
 - A) Weed the _____ - _____ from your past experiences with anyone other than your spouse.
 - B) Weed your _____ and take them captive.
 - C) Weed _____ influences and plant _____ truths in your marriage.
 - D) Weed _____ from the marriage bed.
 - E) Weed out sex as a _____.
 - F) Weed undue _____ and have sexual intimacy _____.
 - G) Weed your garden by applying _____ in your life.



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