

series: october 2 - november 27



passionate: winning at love

song of solomon

RATED PG-13

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love

“Love Goals”

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “Love Goals”

[Song of Solomon 1]

Love Goals: to celebrate a love that is for the _____
[Song of Solomon 1:2-3]

Christ completes. We _____.

Love Goals: to have friends that _____ our _____
[Song of Solomon 1:4; Hebrews 10:24-25]

Christ completes. The world _____.

Love Goals: to have an “open and honest” relationship that shares our _____,
insecurities, and _____
[Song of Solomon 1:5-7; Romans 5:1-5]

Christ completes. The world _____.

Love Goals: to love, _____, and _____ one another as Christ does for us
[Song of Solomon 1:8-17; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15]

Christ completes. We _____.

Next Step Questions:

Are your love goals the same as God’s love goals for you?

Is Jesus the starting point, and center, of your love life?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. Why do you think this series is rated PG-13? What age did you first begin hearing about love and sex? Who was the teacher and what was the material?
3. Have you ever read Song of Solomon or heard a message on it before?
4. Why is it important in today's culture to find out what God's word says about "love", "intimacy", "sex", and "singleness"?
5. How does the message of Song of Solomon 1 speak to our vertical relationship with God?
6. How does the message of Song of Solomon 1 speak to our horizontal relationship with God?
7. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?
8. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, October 9, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love “Cultivating Healthy Relationships”

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “Cultivating Healthy Relationships”
[Song of Solomon 2]

Cultivating Healthy Relationships: plant health by _____ God’s love and _____
[Song of Solomon 2:1-7; 1 Corinthians 7:6-9]

_____ is a great a season for personal growth and Kingdom impact

_____ is “like fire” and we can get burnt

Cultivating Healthy Relationships: fertilize the relationship with _____ and _____
[Song of Solomon 2:8-14; Luke 13:6-9]

“Leaping” meant: _____ the _____

“Gazing” meant: _____, _____, and paying attention

Cultivating Healthy Relationships: Catch the _____ _____
[Song of Solomon 2:15-17; Romans 12:1-2]

Working on our “issues” isn’t meant to create fights about who is right or wrong. It defines the right fight so we can get healthy together.

_____ towards the beloved leads to _____

Next Step Questions:

Are you cultivating a healthy relationship with God and with those you love?

Which of the four actions do you need to focus on (plant, fertilize, catch, or turn)?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. What was the most challenging thing you heard in this week's message?
3. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this week's message?
4. How is the Bible's view of singleness, and sexual desire/activity, as shared in the message different than the world's view?
5. Consider this quote from the message: "Sexual desire has emerged in the last one hundred years as a primary category for understanding our identity. In biblical times or in ancient Greece, sex was regarded as something human beings did; today it is considered to be something vital to who humans beings are"
(Carle R. Trueman)
6. What are some of the "little foxes" you see that could be spoiling your health and/or the health of your relationships?
7. What are your top 2 love languages and how do you share those with those around you? See the exercise here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet
8. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?
How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, October 16, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love

“What Love Does”

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “What Love Does”

[Song of Solomon 3]

What Love Does: it dreams and _____ into the light

[Song of Songs 3:1-5; Galatians 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13]

- What we do with our _____ effects our relationships

What Love Does: it dreams and calls out _____ in those we love

[Song of Songs 3:6-11; Proverbs 21:23; Philippians 4:8-9]

- What we do with our _____ effects our relationships

Next Step Questions:

- Is there any darkness that needs to come into the light in your relationship with God or others?

- Are you speaking life over those you love? Will you take the 5:1 to challenge this week?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. What is your favorite love song of all time and why?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How does this challenge or encourage you with “what love does”?
4. Who is someone who has modeled this kind of love for you?
5. What did you think about the examples with bringing the “darkness into the light”? What are other examples you can think of that effect relationships?
6. What adjustments do the “three types of love” inform in your life?
 - a. See the exercise here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet
7. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?
8. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, October 23, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love **“The Garden of Love”**

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “The Garden of Love”
[Song of Solomon 4]

The Garden of Love: was _____ by God with, and for, love and it was _____ by human _____
[Genesis 2:24-25; Genesis 3:6-8]

The Garden of Love: is where love _____ and _____ happens
[Song of Songs 4:1-16a; Psalm 37:4]

The Garden of Love: is possible because real love and _____ are available through the _____
[Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 4:32]

Next Step Questions:

- Will you come to the cross today for real love and redemptive lift?
- Will you let the work of the cross flow through you today to others?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. How would the “2 chairs and communicating unspokens” help your marriage and/or other relationships?
 - a. See the exercise here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet
3. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?
4. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, November 6, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love

“It Is Time”

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “It is time...”

[Song of Solomon 5]

It is time: to acknowledge our _____ and let God _____ us

[Song of Solomon 5:1-2]

- Awakened with our _____ (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
- Awakened with _____ (Revelation 3:15-20)

It is time: to recognize and _____ our _____ with God and each other

[Song of Solomon 5:3; Ephesians 4:25-27]

It is time: to heal from the _____ that our _____ has caused

[Song of Solomon 5:4-8; Hebrews 4:11-16]

It is time: to publicly _____ a _____ vision of God and one another

[Song of Solomon 5:9-16]

Next Step Questions:

1. It is time...will you let God awaken you to His desires for your life?
2. It is time...will you let God work on any conflicts or hurts that you have?
3. It is time...will you let a fresh vision of Jesus renew you and all your relationships today?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. Read Revelation 3:15-20. Would you describe your relationship with God as lukewarm or hot? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean to awaken from apathy in our relationship with God? What about in your

relationship with others?

4. If married, how did 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 and the exercise this week speak to your relationship? If single, how did it speak to your current season?

a. See the exercise "Top 5 Love and Sex Needs" here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

5. Do you have any relationships that have unresolved conflicts? Are there any hurts that need healing in your walk with God or with others?

6. How would a fresh vision of Jesus and your relationships help renew you?

7. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?

8. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, November 13, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love “Cross-shaped Love”

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “Cross-shaped love”

[Song of Solomon 6]

Cross-shaped love: the “beloved” is to be loved _____ and _____

[Song of Solomon 6:1-3; John 15:16-17]

Cross-shaped love: fights for what is right by _____ and not insisting on _____

[Song of Solomon 6:4-13; Ephesians 5:18-33]

• What does “right” look like in marriage and in the Church?

- o _____ with the Spirit
- o Mutually _____
- o Husbands _____ and _____
- o Wives _____ and _____
- o _____ that _____ the body

Next Step Questions:

- How does “cross-shaped love” impact your walk with Jesus today?
- How does “cross-shaped love” impact your walk with others today?

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. How do you handle conflicts and “fights” in your life? What can we learn from the conflict resolution in Song of Songs 6 and the exercise “a fair fight”?

- a. See the exercise “a fair fight” here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet
3. What does the phrase “cross-shaped love” mean to you?
4. How does the cross of Jesus Christ redefine love for you and through you?
5. What does it mean to be His “beloved” (Song of Solomon 6:3) and “chosen” (John 15:16-17)?
6. Read Ephesians 5:18-33. How does this define what “right” looks like in marriage and in the Church?
7. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?
8. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

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Sunday, November 20, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love **“It’s Getting Hot in Here”**

Speaker: Pastor Nate Swearingen

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “It’s Getting Hot in Here”

[Song of Solomon 7]

Focus on the Family talks about 4 major issues we will have to deal with within marriage.

1. _____— illusion will fade of whom you married.
2. _____— your beauty fades.
3. _____— take for granted the faithfulness of your mate.
4. _____— where you take each other for granted

Song of Songs 7

1. So the first and important point today is a _____ to change.

You change for _____ sake not your spouse’s sake.

2. Some Topics Men Must Deepen in Marriage

A. Your _____ of your mate -

3. Knowing _____ details of your mate

4. Deepening your _____

5. Deepening your _____

6. _____ needs to deepen

7. _____ needs to deepen -

8. His _____ for her deepens

Ladies, some areas you need to _____ in your relationship with your husband.

1. Your _____ in your relationship with your husband

2. Your _____ your husband

3. She is the _____.

Group Questions:

1. How is God at work in your life?

2. Read Song of Solomon 7

We've looked at what each of us can do to deepen our relationship.

-The only question left - Am I going to try? (Some of you just heard a voice, saying, "You can't, it's hopeless!")

-Don't believe that lie.

3. Will you give all parts of your Marriage to God?

4. Go over the love booklet exercise.

5. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?

6. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

Take a moment with your spouse to consider what 1-2 items on this list your spouse is doing well. Encourage them. What one item could they work on the next few weeks? Pray together over this next step.

If single, what about this list encourages you the most and what challenges you most? Who can you share this insight with? Take time to pray over how God wants to grow you in how you relate to others.

*As a Servant-Wife, She...

1. Respects
2. Trusts
3. Supports
4. Accepts
5. Admires

*By H. Dale Burke (Different by Design)

*As a Servant-Husband, He...

1. Sacrifices
2. Nourishes
3. Cherishes
4. Honors
5. Understands

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Sunday, November 27, 2022

Passionate: Winning at Love **“Priceless”**

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Resources: Next Step Booklet at www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

Notes:

Passionate: “Priceless”

[Song of Solomon 8]

Priceless: a passion _____ by Christ and not compromised by the _____ [Song of Songs 8:1-5; Ecclesiastes 4:12]

Priceless: a _____ love that lasts because Jesus’ love is the _____ and guarantee [Song of Songs 8:6-7; Romans 8:35-39]

Priceless: _____ preserved by following the _____ and honoring God with _____
[Song of Songs 8:8-14; 1 Corinthians 6:16-18]

Next Step Questions:

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. What has stood out to you the most during this series about God’s love for you?
3. Reflect on this quote from the message: “If you try to find intimacy with another person before achieving a sense of wholeness on your own, all your relationships become an attempt to complete yourself” (Dr. Les Parrot).
4. How does this series on Song of Solomon speak to our relationship with God in every season of life? Single, dating, and married?
5. Read Song of Solomon 8:6-7 and Romans 8:35-39. How does Christ’s love serve as a seal and guarantee? How is that meant to translate to marriage?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:16-18 and Galatians 5:16. Now review the exercises “Who is in control” here: www.pathwayvb.com/lovebooklet

a. How do these verses and the questions in the exercise challenge and/or encourage you today?

7. How did you answer the next step questions from the message?

8. How can we pray for you and support you this week?