

Week 5 Participant: The Gardens of God

Session 5: Week of April 6, 2025

The Garden of Love – *The Song of Songs 4:12-5:1*

Brewster Baptist Church

Connecting

What's the title of a love song you like?

The Song of Songs 4:12-5:1

¹² A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed. ¹³ Your channel is an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard, ¹⁴ nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all chief spices — ¹⁵ a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon. ¹⁶ Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden that its fragrance may be wafted abroad. Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

^{5:1} I come to my garden, my sister, my bride; I gather my myrrh with my spice, I eat my honeycomb with my honey, I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love.

Questions

1. *Proverbs 3:3* describes binding steadfast love and faithfulness around your neck. How do love and faithfulness contribute to building trust and respect in marriage and in all relationships?

2. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**,⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never ends. Which qualities of love listed in *1 Corinthians 13:4-8a* are most challenging for you to practice consistently? Why?

3. How does the bridegroom's admiration for his bride's beauty in *Song of Songs* chapter 4 reflect the importance of verbal affirmation in a relationship? How can couples practice this today? How can friends provide this kind of affirmation and encouragement?

4. What does the imagery of a "locked garden" and "sealed fountain" in *Song of Songs 4:12* signify about purity and exclusivity in marriage? How can couples apply this concept to protect and nurture their relationship?

5. According to Gary Chapman, there are five distinct love languages: physical touch, words of affirmation, gift-giving, acts of service, and quality time. How does being aware of our own needs, as well as those of our spouse, or family members, or friends, help us to express love appropriately?

6. In *Song of Songs 5:1*, the bridegroom invites their friends to "*eat, drink, and be drunk with love.*" What does this celebration say about God's view of marital love? How can couples cultivate a culture of joy and celebration in their relationship?

Praying for Each Other

Are there any joys to celebrate, any burdens we can share?

Closing Prayer: God of love and joy, we praise you for the gift of love that You have given us. We thank You for the joy that fills our hearts when we experience love from our spouse, our friends, and from Your divine presence. May the love between spouses reflect Your covenant love, nurturing trust, respect, and joy in our relationships. May friendships be strengthened by mutual support and encouragement, reflecting the kindness and care that You show us. As we celebrate the beauty of love, remind us that Your love is the foundation upon which all other loves are built. Guide us to express love in ways that honor You and those around us. May our lives be filled with the joy and peace that comes from walking in love with all people. Amen.