

Wednesday, September 19, 2018  
Wednesday night couple's groups  
Week 5  
"From this day forward"  
Small group questions

**Main Idea:**

Fun is not a luxury in marriage. If you don't make time for fun, you may not have a marriage.

- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
- Do a reality check: How would you evaluate the level of fun in your marriage?

Read and discuss Ecclesiastes 9:9 and Song of Solomon 4:1-3.

**Ecclesiastes 9:9**

The Writer or Teacher urges the reader not to let life go by without experiencing happiness. To rejoice is no sin; to the contrary, "God favors what you do" (v. 7). Wearing white clothes and anointing the hair (v. 8) symbolize joy and contrast with the familiar use of sackcloth and ashes as a sign of mourning or repentance. Three specific areas of joy recommended are feasting (v. 7), marital relations (v. 9), and occupation (v. 10).

**Song of Solomon 4:1-3**

**4:1** "Doves" convey a sense of gentleness and tenderness. The veil<sup>87</sup> both hides and enhances her beauty. The figure of her hair being like a flock of goats skipping down<sup>89</sup> Mount Gilead corresponds somewhat to the actual appearance of hair flowing down over a girl's shoulder that communicate a sense of vitality.

**4:2** The obvious message here is that her teeth are white and none are missing. Again, however, the picture of a flock that is clean and healthy (not a single lamb has died) tells us that the woman projects a sense of vigor and purity.

**4:3** The mouth is attractive too. The "rosy glow" of her lips and cheeks<sup>92</sup> is not merely beautiful but wholesome; "pomegranate" recalls earlier usages of fruit as sexual metaphor, and the sense of desirable to kiss may be implied.<sup>1</sup> The language shows how this is a time of enjoyment in their marriage relationship.

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<sup>1</sup> Garrett, D. A. (1993). *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of songs* (Vol. 14, p. 404). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- What are some of the things you most enjoy doing together in your marriage? How have your interests changed throughout your marriage?
- How is intimacy different from proximity? Why do we often default to thinking as long as we are present with each other that we are building intimacy? How can we change that mentality and expectation in our marriage?
- If you are struggling to have fun in your marriage, what's keeping you from having fun? What steps do you need to take to remove these barriers?

#### ACTION STEPS:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?

Bible Readings: Take steps towards making fun a priority in your marriage by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

- Ecclesiastes 9:7-10
- Song of Solomon 4:1-16
- Proverbs 5:1-23