

# SONG *of* SOLOMON

## Part 5

### Big Idea

Today's final installment from Solomon's "Song of Songs" reinforces our goal for the series—understanding how to love others according to God's way. God's way is always better than ours, and today we learn the various aspects of lasting love and how it matures over time. Relationships built on lasting love serve as examples to others of how committed love can transform spouses and their marriage. While the world's narrative suggests that love can be temporary, lasting love according to God's way is permanent. Lasting love will also be tested, requiring a commitment to persevere despite uncomfortable circumstances. It's saying to your spouse, "I'm willing to stand beside you during this difficult time while we figure this out together." Commitment helps to sustain relationships through those difficult times, inspiring us to fight for and protect our spouses at all times. Lasting love is also protective—requiring a commitment to protect your loved one even if they choose not to protect themselves. The end result of a lasting love that is permanent, persevering, and protective is a love that produces a peace that enriches and fulfills us like nothing else on earth—God's way works!

All relationships built on God's model are lasting, but successful relationships take work—love is a choice we must make every day. In Colossians 3:14, Paul reminds us that we must "put on" love. 1 John 4:19 also reminds us that we have the capacity to love because God loved us first. In all your relationships, make the choice to pursue lasting love, recognizing that is permanent, persevering, protective, and peaceful.

### Discussion Questions

- Discuss the four characteristics of lasting love: permanent, persevering, protective, and peaceful. Which come naturally to you? Which do you have to work on the most?
- How does the world's view differ from God's view of lasting love?
- How can you intentionally develop lasting love in your relationships with spouses, friends, etc.?

### Prayer Focus

Thank God for your relationships, and ask Him to reveal areas within them where you need to commit to more work. Pray that He will be the source of forgiveness and restoration in your love relationships. Ask for His protection and for His strength and boldness to fight when necessary. Submit your relationships to God and ask that He bring peace through the difficulties. Ask God for His way to be the center of all your relationships.

### Next Steps

Be intentional and seek ways to apply this message to your relationships. Make the choice to put on love rather than rely on your feelings.

### Leader Tip

God makes all things new—remind your group to look forward from today!