

STUDY GUIDE

IN THE RING 05.27.2018

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Juri Amari—Church Planter of Metro Alliance

[set up]

Share about a couple that modeled a vibrant and passionate marriage for you. What do you attribute the quality of their marriage to?

Why is it that so many marriages seem to gradually let “the fire die” and then see passion and intimacy decline?

[digging deeper]

Open your Bibles to Song of Solomon 2:1-16. As you read through this, what are some clear observations about this couple?

Read the following verses. After each one, state a principle that God has for marriage within the verse and then offer one practical example of how a married couple can live out that principle.

Proverbs 5:15-19 _____

Ecclesiastes 9:9 _____

Proverbs 5:18 _____

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 _____

Find more verses in Song of Solomon (another time, not during your LifeGroup) and use the space below to do this same exercise on some of them.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In general, marriages can experience passion and intimacy. But what is unique, distinct, or even superior about passion in a Christian marriage?

This past Sunday, we were encouraged to cultivate a passionate marriage through celebrating what is attractive about our spouse, pursuing our spouse, and protecting our marriage from the little “foxes” that can gradually destroy our marriage.

What is one thing you find attractive about your spouse? (Singles, what is one attractive quality you are looking for in your future spouse?)

What is one way you try and pursue your spouse? What is one way you like to be pursued? (Singles, how do you plan on pursuing your future spouse and how do you desire to be pursued?)

What is one “fox” that has snuck into your marriage and is doing damage? Can you get rid of it? (Singles, what “foxes” are you allowing to hang around that will do damage to your future marriage?)

Since the purpose of our marriage is to glorify God and illustrate His love for us, what can we learn from this study regarding God’s passionate love for us and how we are to passionately love Him back? (Optional verses: Zephaniah 3:17; Psalm 117; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1; Isaiah 62:4–5)

What do you find attractive about Christ?

How does Jesus pursue you?

What “foxes” have you let damage your relationship with Christ?

[living it out]

1. Tell your spouse about something you find attractive in him or her.
2. Make a plan (action steps) to mutually pursue each other in the next month (don’t forget that CVC has offered a \$30 child care voucher for a date).
<http://www.cvconline.org/voucher>
3. How will you catch one of the “foxes” that is doing damage to your marriage right now?

[end with prayer]

Pray with your spouse (if he or she is present) over these steps. If your spouse is not present, get in smaller groups and pray over each of these for each other.

Spend time in prayer over your relationship with Christ as well—thanking Him for His attributes that are so attractive, for pursuing us, and for His help catching the foxes that are damaging our relationship with Christ.