



## 4Love Series (Week 3)

### Romance

*Song of Songs 1:2; Psalm 63:1-8*

#### OPEN

Think back to a time when you were *in love*. How did it affect your life? What did you do? Think about? How did it direct your time, money, attention?

As you think of the topic of *romance*, how does our media culture (music, TV, movies, billboards, and commercials) frame romance in its communication to us?

- Are culture's messages correct? Incorrect? Both? Explain.

#### DISCUSS

In our third week of the 4Love series, we progress from affection (*storge*) to Friendship (*philia*) and now to Romance (*eros*). Romance carries with it the idea of Cupid, Valentine's Day, of being "in love," and yes, sex. To better understand the third kind of love (*eros*), we must untangle it from how it has been perceived in our culture.

Since culture links sex so closely to romantic relationships (or even casual relationships), let's investigate sex in romance.

- How did you grow up thinking about sex? Was it something good? Bad? both? Explain.

There are two Greek words that get intertwined in romantic love: *Venus* and *Eros*

Venus = sexual desire. It longs for consummation. It wants the body.

Eros = romantic desire. It longs for communion. It wants the beloved.

- Which of these seems more prevalent in our culture?
- Which seems the more powerful of the two? Which is the higher form of love?

Dallas Willard says that feelings are good servants and horrible masters.

C.S. Lewis says, "Eros, honored without reservation and obeyed unconditionally, becomes a demon."

- What are these men saying? Do you agree or disagree?
- Does your relationship with God feel like an "in-love" relationship with him? Why or why not? Does this seem like a strange question?
- Read Song of Songs 1:2 and Psalm 63:1-8. How do these verses speak about one's relationship with God?
- Which is more difficult for you, relating to God with intimacy or approaching Him with reverence? Why do you think this is more difficult for you?

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Reflect on how your understanding of love is being challenged, deepened, or refined through this series.
- How have you misunderstood romantic love?
- Think about your relationship with God in light of the Scriptures listed above. Is there room to grow in how you are *in love* with God?