

Creekside Community Church
Hero: Jesus in the Old Testament
September 11th, 2016
Jeff Bruce, Associate Pastor

The Bible's Love Story

- 1. Act 1 – The Divine Proposal (Genesis 1, 2)**

- 2. Act 2 – The Runaway Bride (Hosea 1:1-3)**

- 3. Act 3 – The Relentless Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:32)**

- 4. Act 4 – The Long-Awaited Wedding (Revelation 19:6-10; 22:1-3)**

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

2. What's the most beautiful thing you've seen/heard/experienced in the past month?
Share your experience with the group.

Going Deeper

3. Jeff said, *"God's desire for relationship with us is written into the fabric of creation."* How does the form/pattern of creation attest to God's desire for relationship with humanity (See Genesis 1:1, 4-5, 9-10, 16-18, 26-27; 2:18-24)?
4. According to Scripture, sin is a form of spiritual adultery (see Hosea 1:1-3). In what ways are idolatry and adultery similar (See Exodus 20:3-5; Ezekiel 16:15-17)? How does this change our view of God? How does it change our view of sin?
5. How is marriage a metaphor of the gospel (Ephesians 5:32; see Mark 2:19-20; John 3:29)? What does Jesus do to win back his wayward bride (see Hosea 2:14-23; 3:1-3; Mark 10:45)? When will the church's marriage to Christ be consummated (see Revelation 19:6-10)?

Application

6. God's intention is to create harmony/oneness within diversity. How does this reality help you to appreciate the differences between you and your spouse?
7. Marriage is a living parable of Christ's love for the church. How does this change your perspective on loving your spouse/resolving marital conflicts/etc.? How can marriages proclaim a false gospel? How could your marriage more accurately portray Christ's love for the church?
8. Why is the Bible's love story just as relevant for singles as marrieds (1 Corinthians 7:32; 2 Corinthians 11:3; James 4:4-5)? How does this impact the way we as singles right now?