



This week, Corey finished our series by preaching about the Bride metaphor:

### READ

Isaiah 62: 1-5

Revelations 19: 7-9

Ephesians 5: 31-32

### REFLECT

1. Corey talked about this metaphor and the overall narrative of the Bible boiling it down to the good news that God loves us and "he wants an intimate, unbreakable relationship with us that lasts forever." Have you felt this love in your life? What does this good news mean to you?
2. Corey pointed out the text from Isaiah relates to human dignity. How does this relationship with God and the fact that God names you as a beloved effect your view of yourself? He quoted G.K. Chesterton, "The great lesson of Beauty and the Beast is that a thing must be loved before it is lovable." What implications does this have on your life?
3. The Bible repeatedly uses this example of the Church as the bride and speaks of idolatry as our form of infidelity. The people and the Church continually give themselves to other desires and forsake their covenantal commitment. What can we glean from this aspect of the metaphor? Can you find examples of our infidelities and God's faithfulness?

### PRAY

- + Confess to God how often we default to isolation and restlessness.
- + Thank God for continually redeeming us and forgiving us, for drawing us near despite our idolatry and infidelity.
- + Pray for renewal in our Church, our Community, and our City.

### PRACTICE

- + Corey suggested that the Parish model will help us tap into the hospitality aspect of this metaphor. From the Revelations text, Corey talks about the great party that will take place at the end of the world and how the Church should be a people of hospitality, extending the invitation into our neighborhoods. How can you extend the invitation this week? How can you practice the hospitality of the Bride?
- + The aspects of dignity and fidelity that Corey discussed can all too easily become ethereal, theological, and intellectual. How can you put these aspects of the metaphor into practical application this week?