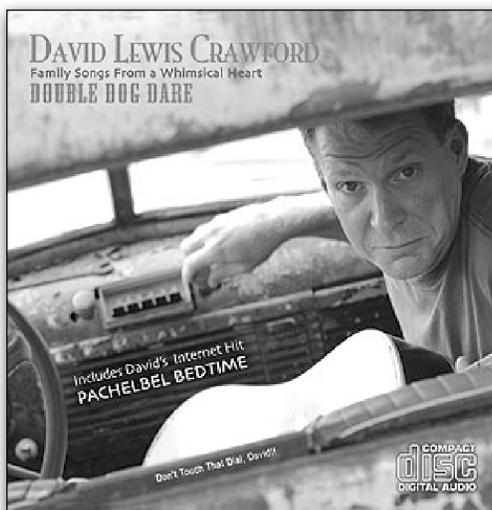


Facilitator's Guide

5 of 11 Interactive Bible Discussions on Family Relationships

based on the songs of

David Lewis Crawford's Americana CD
DOUBLE DOG DARE
Family Songs from a Whimsical Heart



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Lesson 5 – Track 5

"In My Dreams"

DREAMS OF ROMANCE

TOPICS

- Finding love that goes the distance
- Keeping love that goes the distance
- Cherishing the love that lasts

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of this lesson, husband and wife will recall anecdotes when their love for one another had been confirmed, and list several practical ways to keep and to cherish their romantic love for each other.

OPENING QUOTE

"The centre of every man's existence is a dream." (G.K. Chesterton: *Heretics*. New York: John Lane Co., 1905)

THE SETUP

Begin by asking participants for examples in their own relationship when they knew they had found the love of their dreams. Ask them to try to describe what that looked like, felt like, sounded like by telling an anecdote from their lives.

For those of you who were swept off your feet, or those who had a gradual coming to know this person was "the One," here is David Crawford's "In My Dreams" song, written when he was missing the One he loves.

Play TRACK 5: IN MY DREAMS.

BIBLE REFERENCES

As best suits your group, read the following Bible passages and allow a short comment or two about each, as they pertain to the Biblical relationship between spouses.

Old Testament

- Genesis 24 — Abraham asks his servant to go back to the country Abraham came from and find a wife for Isaac. The servant prayed and asked for a sign that a certain woman there would be the one he should choose. A woman perfectly answered the sign and willingly went with the servant. As they came back to Isaac together, Isaac had been praying for God's will, too. As soon as Isaac laid eyes on her he loved her. As soon as the servant identified him to her, she descended from her camel and ran to his arms. They both trusted God's choice for them.

Poetry

- Proverbs 5:17-19 — Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe. Let her affection fill you at all times with delight, be infatuated always with her love.
- Song of Solomon 8:7 — Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Epistle

- Ephesians 5:31-32a— For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is a profound one.
- 1 Peter 4:8 — Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Gospel

- Matthew 5:1-11 — (The Beatitudes)
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Facilitator Tips

Before you begin an open discussion, remind your group of the following:

- Every husband or wife in every marriage is different and responds differently to events and experiences.
- Let's openly share our experiences and thoughts realizing that our conclusions are heavily influenced by our personal experiences and that what is a fast rule for one family may not apply to another.
- Try to keep your comments short so others have an opportunity to be involved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Shared Experiences

- What were some signs that helped you know you had found the love of your life?
- What is the difference between infatuation and being in love? How do you know?
- Given the old adage that opposites attract, why do you think God brought you and your spouse together as a team?

- What difficulties in your marriage have allowed your love to grow stronger?
- How do you stay connected while you have to be apart?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Bible and Church Teaching

- Can we today ask for signs from God about our relationship with our spouse the way Abraham's servant prayed and asked for a sign?
- Sending off a servant, like Abraham did, to find a wife does not sound very romantic, yet what was Isaac's reaction? If Isaac had never seen her or known about her prior to that moment in time, how might you explain his romantic attraction to his new wife?
- What might we learn from the story of the search for Isaac's wife about how God works in our marriage?
- In the Old Testament books of Poetry the writers use similes and metaphors to communicate what is true about married love. What metaphors or similes might you use for the love in your marriage. (If you're a man, referring to your wife in terms referring to motor vehicles or military hardware may not be the best idea.)
- In considering St. Paul's use of the term "one flesh" what might this refer to other than physical intimacy? Are there examples of the unity in your marriage relationship that can only be described as mysterious?
- How can The Beatitudes relate to a good, romantic, marriage?

MORAL PREMISE

Constantly questioning if you married the right person, leads to a wandering heart; but Trusting that God has lead you to the right spouse, leads a love that deepens over time.

FINAL THOUGHT

Discerning God's will for a lifetime partner can be exciting or stressful, but everyone has his or her own journey for how God lead you together. What a beautiful exercise it is to look back on the ways God worked things out to bring you to the point of commitment for a lifetime. Let that encourage you to look forward together to even better things to come.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, You give us a free will to choose, but the beauty of falling in love is a part of Your plan that we seldom have control over. Our emotions are such an intricate part of who we are. We thank you for using our hearts to show us the spouse best suited for us, and we trust You that whatever the future may bring, we may have the assurance that by Your Grace, our love will grow ever more beautiful together. Amen.

SONG SYNOPSIS

Stanza 1: A man is on a bus traveling away from his sweetheart, and all he can do is think of her and the beautiful face of the woman he loves. All he wants to do is give in to sleep so that he can somehow be together with her in his dreams.

Refrain: The man feels so alone by day, but he knows that every night as he falls asleep alone, his sweet wife will be with him in his dreams.

Stanza 2: Absence makes the man realize how very much he loves his wife and the way he feels when he's looking into her face. She's the sparkle of his life, and no separation of time or space can keep him from being with her every night in his dreams.

Refrain: The man feels so alone by day, but he can hardly wait for night, because he knows that when he falls asleep, his sweet wife will be with him in his dreams.