

**The King and His People**  
**The Church: The Bride of Christ**  
Sermon Notes for July 4, 2021

**The Rich Biblical Background:**

**The Image of the Church as the Bride of Christ communicates ...**

>That we are the O of God's Incredible L.

>That we should live in F to our G.

>That we should S to Christ's P Work in our Lives.

**The King and His People**  
**Discussion/Study Guide for**  
**The Church: The Bride of Christ**

We hope this guide will help you go deeper into God's Word and spur you on in obedience to what God is teaching us today. Please feel free to use all or part of it for your group discussion or personal study.

- What are some of the emotions or behaviors you have seen in the lives of a couple who have just gotten engaged? Why do you think they act the way they do?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as engaged to Jesus? How does this image change the way you think about your relationship with Jesus? Does your behavior match that image? How? Or How does it not?
- Read Deut. 7:6-8 and Isaiah 54:5-6. How is God described? How is Israel described? Does this description resonate with you? How?
- Read 2 Cor. 11:1-4. What image does Paul use here to describe the Corinthian church? What are the feelings Paul has toward the church in these verses? Why is he felling the way he is? What is the threat to the church in this passage? What is Paul's purpose for the Corinthian church?
- What does this say about the threats that exist to us as a church today? What does it mean to be a church betrothed to Christ? How should this effect the way we live?
- Read Eph. 5:22-32. Why is submission the appropriate response of the church to Christ? How has Christ expressed His love for His bride, the Church? According to these verses what is Christ doing while we wait for the day when we will be presented to Him?
- How does this concept of the church being the Bride of Christ change the way you view our church? What is your role and responsibility in helping our church be a beautiful bride for Jesus?

(A sobering text to read sometime is Ezekiel 16. Sometime reflect on the actions of Israel and the emotions that God responds with.)