



A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

**June 26**

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**July 31**

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON





# SONG OF SONGS

## A STUDY

*on the book of Song of Solomon*

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**June 26 - July 31**

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A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

**June 26**

# SONG THE OF SOLOMON



**CHRIST: GOD'S BIG PICTURE**

Song of Solomon 1:1-4, 2:8-17



# Christ: God's Big Picture

Song of Solomon 1:1-4, 2:8-17

1:1-4

She

1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine;

3 your anointing oils are fragrant;

your name is oil poured out;

therefore virgins love you.

4 Draw me after you; let us run.

The king has brought me into his chambers.

Others

We will exult and rejoice in you;

we will extol your love more than wine;

rightly do they love you.

2:8-17

She

8 The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes,

leaping over the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.

Behold, there he stands

behind our wall,

gazing through the windows,

looking through the lattice.

# Christ: God's Big Picture

10 My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away,

11 for behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.

12 The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

13 The fig tree ripens its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away.

14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,  
in the crannies of the cliff,  
let me see your face,  
let me hear your voice,  
for your voice is sweet,  
and your face is lovely.

15 Catch the foxes for us,  
the little foxes  
that spoil the vineyards,  
for our vineyards are in blossom.”

16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;  
he grazes among the lilies.

17 Until the day breathes  
and the shadows flee,  
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle  
or a young stag on cleft mountains.

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# Christ: God's Big Picture

This week we begin a new series in the Song of Solomon. Other than Revelation, this is perhaps the most misunderstood book of the Bible. Therefore, we must be very careful how we interpret each section of the book.

Here are a few tips to help us along the way:

- It's poetry. So read it like poetry not prose. Not everything is literal. Not EVERYTHING has hidden figurative language. The language is meant to evoke emotion, not endless speculation on the meaning underneath every leaf or rock.

- It's a song. Notice that it is the SONG of songs...not SONGS of songs. In other words, this is meant to be read as ONE song. To rightly understand this book we must read it as a whole.

- It's in the Bible. We must allow Biblical Theology to speak into how this book contributes to the overall narrative of the Bible. What's the big story of the Bible? How does this book give voice to that big story?

- It's short. I suggest you read it through without stopping two times. The first time read it as a love story between a man and a woman who become husband and wife. The second time read it as a love story between Jesus and the church that anticipates the wedding feast of Revelation 19. Then go back and read it slow trying to enjoy the little words of encouragement that you will hear afresh each time.

- It's complicated. If you have an idea that stems from the book then check that idea with the Bible as a whole. Is that idea or truth proclaimed in the law or epistles? Do the Psalms repeat or clarify this idea? Do the prophets or gospel speak to this truth? If not, then most likely it's imagination not inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We must always ask, what's the intended meaning of God as He inspired the writer of Song of Solomon.

# Christ: God's Big Picture

- It's a love story. As you read this love story you will be tempted to add your own cultural understanding of love into the story. Every culture has an idea of what it means to be male or female or what it means to be a husband or wife or what is appropriate and inappropriate in "love and war". As much as possible try to read it with a Biblical lens of manhood and womanhood, love, and marital roles.
- It's erotic. Some of the language present vivid images of love making. Be careful not to allow your mind to wander into unhealthy places. Don't read this book as a voyeur. Heed the repeated words of the bride: Song of Solomon 2:7 - I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.
- It's God's message to you. It doesn't matter if you're male or female, married or single, young or old, widowed or divorced, seeking love or shunning love, this is a book for you.

As you read this book with the help of the Holy Spirit your eyes will be opened to hear and encounter God. May He stir up your love for Him and for one another through this song of all songs.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death,  
jealousy is fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
the very flame of the LORD.  
7 Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If a man offered for love  
all the wealth of his house,  
he would be utterly despised.





*Seal upon your heart*

## Discussion Questions

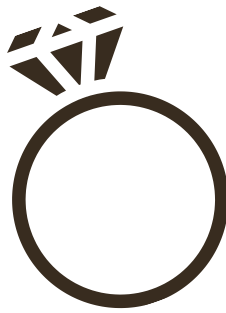
1. What is your favorite love story and why?
2. Take some time as a group to go over the background of the book Song of Solomon.
3. Read Song of Solomon 2:8-9, 14, 4:9-10, 6:4-5, 2:10, 13, 4:8, 3:11, 4:1-5. Take some time to discuss Solomon's love for his bride. How does this speak to us about God's great love for us today?
4. What New Testament parallels do you find with Jesus' love for the church and Solomon's love for his bride?
5. What are some reasons people doubt God's love for them and how can we stand firm and resolute in His unconditional love for us?
6. In what ways has God demonstrated His great love for us both in Scripture and in your present circumstance?
7. Read Song of Solomon 1:5-6, 4:7, Ephesians 5:25-27. Discuss the reality of us being sinners and saints at the same time.
8. What are some false identities you have had about yourself and how does Jesus' love help reshape how you view yourself?



*Seal upon your heart*

## Discussion Questions

9. Read Song of Solomon 2:16, 6:3, 7:10. Discuss what it means for you to be Christ's and for Christ to be yours. What New Testament verses help develop your thoughts?
10. In what ways does the Shulamite meditate on Solomon's love? In what ways can we meditate on Jesus' love for us?
11. Read Song of Solomon 1:15-16, 2:2-3 and discuss the call and response of love. What does that look like for us as Christians?
12. Take some time to list out attributes of God (communicable and incommunicable) and how this can increase your love for Jesus.
13. How does the third party in this song help or hinder the bride's relationship with Solomon?
14. Can you share some examples when people have increased or decreased your love for God?
15. How do you find a right balance of being in the world and not of the world (having Christian and non-Christian friends)?
16. Give some examples of the love tension in this song and how the bride seeks to resolve it.



*Seal upon your heart*

## Discussion Questions

17. Have you ever felt as if God were distant? If so, what did you do?
18. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-3 and Revelation 3:20. What excuses does the Shulamite give for not answering Solomon? What excuses do we give for not answering God's knock? If possible give examples in your own life or the life of others.
19. Read Song of Solomon 2:15. What are some little foxes that can spoil our love with Jesus and how do we "catch" them?
20. End your time together by reading Song of Solomon 8:14 and Revelation 22:17, 20-21 and allow the passage to inform your ending prayer.



*Seal upon your heart*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

July 3

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON



SINGLENESS: REJOICING IN LOVE

Song of Solomon 1:4b, 11; 5:1b; 8:8-9; 8:4

# Singleness: Rejoicing in Love

Song of Solomon

1:1b

We will exult and rejoice in you;  
we will extol your love more than wine;  
rightly do they love you.

1:11

We will make for you ornaments of gold,  
studded with silver.

5:1b

Eat, friends, drink,  
and be drunk with love!

8:8-9

8 We have a little sister,  
and she has no breasts.

What shall we do for our sister  
on the day when she is spoken for?

9 If she is a wall,  
we will build on her a battlement of silver,  
but if she is a door,  
we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

8:4

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
that you not stir up or awaken love  
until it pleases.

# Singleness: Rejoicing in Love

The Song of Solomon is a love story between two people who are moving toward marriage. It celebrates courting, marriage, sex, and maturing in your relationship with your spouse. But at the same time it is a book that celebrates singleness. Besides the duet between the man and the woman, we often hear a beautiful symphonic choir urging love and advising on love. The Daughters of Jerusalem are most likely the young unmarried women of Jerusalem which is why many translations use the term, virgins of Jerusalem.

As the church faithfully reads this book it has much to teach us about the joy of singleness. The women are not seen as melancholy maidens whose only cure is to find a man to marry. They are shouting, dancing, and rejoicing over the love of others IN THEIR SINGLENESS. The advice given by the married woman to the single women is opposite of what many of our single friends in the church often hear...do not stir or awaken love until it pleases.

Enjoy your singleness. Embrace it. Engage in the larger community as a single. Allow your unique voice to break through...for the married couple needs to hear your voice.

Join us this Sunday as we discuss the topic of singleness in the Song of Solomon.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



*Do not stir up or awaken love*

## Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of single men and women (inside and outside the Bible) who have had tremendous impact on the Kingdom.
2. Give some examples of singles expressing joy in the Song of Solomon.  
*Note: The most likely identification of the daughters of Jerusalem is that they were the young, unmarried women of Jerusalem. Many translations use the term, virgins of Jerusalem.*
3. What are some of the difficulties of singleness and how can joy be found through the difficulty?
4. Read 2:7, 3:5, & 8:4. How is this advice often different from many church members to singles and how can we as a church do better to celebrate singleness.
5. Read Song of Solomon 1:6, 5:9, & 6:13. Discuss how, if unguarded, a single person might experience and express jealousy toward those who are married or pursuing marriage.
6. In what ways do singles and married people both struggle with contentment (think of the couple in Song of Solomon) and how does joy in Jesus practically help us overcome that struggle?





*Do not stir up or awaken love*

## Discussion Questions

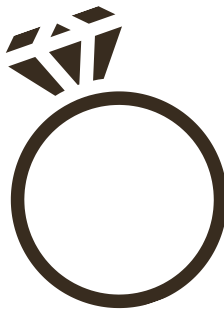
7. Read again Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, & 8:4. What are some ways love can be stirred up or awakened?
8. How does one know when love is ready (pleases) to be awakened?
9. While some are singles because of God's calling, others intentionally avoid marriage that God may be calling them to; what are some reasons people might avoid marriage?
10. What are some wrong categories of people that singles should not stir or awaken love with?
11. Read Song of Solomon 8:6-7. What are the dangers of not properly guarding our heart?
12. Read Song of Solomon 8:8-9. How can the community of the church better help one another (singles and married) in the pursuit of sexual holiness?
13. Give examples from Song of Solomon where singles encouraged, celebrated, or advised concerning love.
14. What unique voice do singles have for married couples and what practical things can they do to strengthen marriages?



*Do not stir up or awaken love*

## Discussion Questions

15. Give examples from Song of Solomon where the married couple went to the single for advice or help in matters of love.
16. What practical things can married couples do to better invite singles into their lives and learn from them?
17. Take some time to listen to your single brothers or sisters in the group. What advice do they have regarding this topic? What struggles are they currently experiencing? How can we practically support, honor, value, and utilize their specific gifting?



*Do not stir up or awaken love*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

July 10

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON



PURSUIT: THE SPACE  
BETWEEN SINGLENESS AND MARRIAGE  
Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5



# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

She

1: 2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine;

3 your anointing oils are fragrant;

your name is oil poured out;

therefore virgins love you.

4 Draw me after you; let us run.

The king has brought me into his chambers.

Others

We will exult and rejoice in you;

we will extol your love more than wine;

rightly do they love you.

She

5 I am very dark, but lovely,

O daughters of Jerusalem,

like the tents of Kedar,

like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not gaze at me because I am dark,

because the sun has looked upon me.

My mother's sons were angry with me;

they made me keeper of the vineyards,

but my own vineyard I have not kept!

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

7 Tell me, you whom my soul loves,  
where you pasture your flock,  
where you make it lie down at noon;  
for why should I be like one who veils herself  
beside the flocks of your companions?

He

8 If you do not know,  
O most beautiful among women,  
follow in the tracks of the flock,  
and pasture your young goats  
beside the shepherds' tents.

9 I compare you, my love,  
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.  
10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,  
your neck with strings of jewels.

Others

11 We will make for you ornaments of gold,  
studded with silver.

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

She

12 While the king was on his couch,  
my nard gave forth its fragrance.

13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh  
that lies between my breasts.

14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms  
in the vineyards of Engedi.

He

15 Behold, you are beautiful, my love;  
behold, you are beautiful;  
your eyes are doves.

She

16 Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful.  
Our couch is green;

17 the beams of our house are cedar;  
our rafters are pine.

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

2:1 I am a rose of Sharon,  
a lily of the valleys.

He

2 As a lily among brambles,  
so is my love among the young women.

She

3 As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,  
so is my beloved among the young men.

With great delight I sat in his shadow,  
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4 He brought me to the banqueting house,  
and his banner over me was love.

5 Sustain me with raisins;  
refresh me with apples,  
for I am sick with love.

6 His left hand is under my head,  
and his right hand embraces me!

7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
by the gazelles or the does of the field,  
that you not stir up or awaken love  
until it pleases.

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

8 The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes,  
leaping over the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

9 My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Behold, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
looking through the lattice.

10 My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away,

11 for behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.

12 The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

13 The fig tree ripens its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away.

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,  
in the crannies of the cliff,  
let me see your face,  
let me hear your voice,  
for your voice is sweet,  
and your face is lovely.

15 Catch the foxes for us,  
the little foxes  
that spoil the vineyards,  
for our vineyards are in blossom."

16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;  
he grazes among the lilies.

17 Until the day breathes  
and the shadows flee,  
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle  
or a young stag on cleft mountains.

# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Song of Solomon 1:2 - 3:5

3: 1 On my bed by night  
I sought him whom my soul loves;  
I sought him, but found him not.  
2 I will rise now and go about the city,  
in the streets and in the squares;  
I will seek him whom my soul loves.  
I sought him, but found him not.  
3 The watchmen found me  
as they went about in the city.  
“Have you seen him whom my soul loves?”  
4 Scarcely had I passed them  
when I found him whom my soul loves.  
I held him, and would not let him go  
until I had brought him into my mother's house,  
and into the chamber of her who conceived me.  
5 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
by the gazelles or the does of the field,  
that you not stir up or awaken love  
until it pleases.

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# Pursuit: The Space Between Singleness and Marriage

Last week in our study of the Song of Solomon we focused on the voice of the 'Others' and discussed how to honor God as a single person. Over and over we heard the words, 'Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases,' but what do we do when we discern that love is pleased to be stirred up and awakened? This week we will be focused on the first three chapters of the Song to explore that question.

Some refer to this time of stirring and awaking love as 'Dating' and others prefer the term 'Courtship,' but I am choosing to simply call this space 'Pursuit.' Throughout these first three chapters we see the couple pursuing one another, drawing close, pulling away, and pursuing again. We will explore why they have chosen to pursue, who is doing the pursuing, and how they pursue each other.

But these chapters are not only for those who are in the season of pursuing. Married people need to be reminded to continue pursuing their spouse, those who are single and not looking to pursue anyone can apply some of these principles to other relationships in their life, and we all should be equipped to give encouragement and Godly counsel to those around us who are ready to stir up and awaken love.

Be blessed,

Pastor Ben





*Draw me after you*

## Discussion Questions

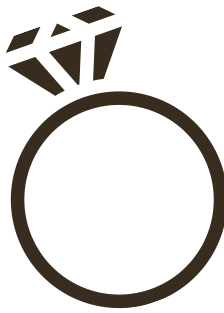
1. In what ways are the man and woman physically attracted to each other in Song of Solomon?
2. What role does/should physical attraction play in a relationship?
3. How can two people pursuing one another cultivate an attraction for one another and fight against only a cultural understanding of beauty? (give biblical standards and examples)
4. In what ways are the man and woman attracted to each other's character in Song of Solomon?
5. What type of character is most lauded in the Bible and therefore something we should be in search of in a potential spouse?
6. What role does friendship play between the man and woman in Song of Solomon?
7. What are some things one can do to ensure that their relationship is a growing, maturing friendship and not simply one centered on romance?
8. Discuss the ways in which both the man and the woman in Song of Solomon initiate the pursuit of love and how their roles break current cultural expectations.



*Draw me after you*

## Discussion Questions

9. What are some worldly reasons and ways to pursue love and how do they differ from Biblical principles?
10. How does the Song of Solomon teach both sexual intimacy and sexual purity?
11. What are some helpful Biblical principles that can guide us as we seek both intimacy and purity?



*Draw me after you*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

July 17

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON



## CONSUMMATION: THE JOY OF SEX

Song of Solomon 4:1 - 5:1

# Consummation: The Joy of Sex

Song of Solomon 4:1 - 5:1

He

4:1 Behold, you are beautiful, my love,  
behold, you are beautiful!

Your eyes are doves  
behind your veil.

Your hair is like a flock of goats  
leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes  
that have come up from the washing,  
all of which bear twins,  
and not one among them has lost its young.

3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread,  
and your mouth is lovely.

Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate  
behind your veil.

4 Your neck is like the tower of David,  
built in rows of stone;  
on it hang a thousand shields,  
all of them shields of warriors.

5 Your two breasts are like two fawns,  
twins of a gazelle,  
that graze among the lilies.

6 Until the day breathes  
and the shadows flee,  
I will go away to the mountain of myrrh  
and the hill of frankincense.

# Consummation: The Joy of Sex

7 You are altogether beautiful, my love;  
there is no flaw in you.

8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride;  
come with me from Lebanon.  
Depart from the peak of Amana,  
from the peak of Senir and Hermon,  
from the dens of lions,  
from the mountains of leopards.

9 You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride;  
you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes,  
with one jewel of your necklace.

10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!  
How much better is your love than wine,  
and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

11 Your lips drip nectar, my bride;  
honey and milk are under your tongue;  
the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

12 A garden locked is my sister, my bride,  
a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates  
with all choicest fruits,  
henna with nard,

14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,  
with all trees of frankincense,  
myrrh and aloes,  
with all choice spices—

15 a garden fountain, a well of living water,  
and flowing streams from Lebanon.

# Consummation: The Joy of Sex

16 Awake, O north wind,  
and come, O south wind!  
Blow upon my garden,  
let its spices flow.

She  
Let my beloved come to his garden,  
and eat its choicest fruits.

He  
5: 1 I came to my garden, my sister, my bride,  
I gathered my myrrh with my spice,  
I ate my honeycomb with my honey,  
I drank my wine with my milk.

Others  
Eat, friends, drink,  
and be drunk with love!

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# Consummation: The Joy of Sex

There's no denying that the Song of Solomon is a book about sex. Chapters 3 and 4 are clearly describing both the wedding day and wedding night (if you know what I mean). But while it describes, in detail, the sexual enjoyment of both the man and the woman it is not like reading *Fifty Shades of Grey* or watching a *Game of Thrones* sex scene. The poetry enables God to describe what sex should look like without moving into the realm of erotica.

Just as the world has much to say about sex, so does God. He has placed this book in the center of our Bible to help reorient our thinking on this important subject. The church must not become religious prudes on the subject, avoiding it for fear of embarrassment. To so do is to allow the world to inform us on what is good and right rather than God.

No matter what station of life you find yourself in, married or single, child or adult, ready for love or waiting for love, this book is applicable for you. For at the deepest level sex is teaching us something about God.

As Ephesians 5 reminds us, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh", (which is illustrated through the act of sex). This mystery (the one flesh covenant union between husband and wife) is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



*This mystery is profound*

## Discussion Questions

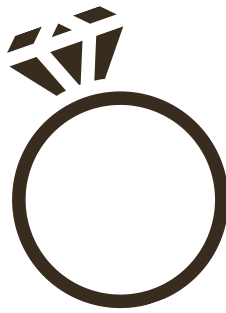
1. What are some ways in which people learn about sex today and what are they being taught?
2. How is the wedding ceremony and consummation a description of Genesis 1-2, Exodus 25-30, and the beginning chapters of Joshua?
3. Why do you think Solomon chose to use such language to describe sex?
4. Read Song of Solomon 4. In what ways (sight, smell, sight, taste, touch) do Solomon and the Shulammite express their love to one another?
5. Which of the above do you hope to grow in and how?  
*Note: The way you answer this will differ depending on whether you are married or single. For the single, there is still much to incorporate into your friendships as long as that expression is within its proper bounds.*
6. How does this chapter (and the book as a whole) teach us that sex is much more than the act of intercourse itself?



*This mystery is profound*

## Discussion Questions

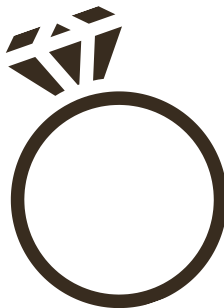
7. What are some ways married couples can better love one another before getting into the bedroom?
8. What are some ways singles can help married couples grow in this area?
9. Read Song of Solomon 4 and 5. In what ways do both the man and the woman create an emotionally safe space for lovemaking?
10. How do both the man and the woman invite one another into the lovemaking experience, why is that important, and what does it look like practically?
11. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-6. Why is it important that even married couples respect the “no” and how do we balance that with 1 Corinthians 7:1-5?
12. Read and discuss the meaning of Song of Solomon 4:12-15. Why does the Bible repeatedly place an emphasis on sexual purity and commitment to one another only?
13. How did Solomon fail in sexual purity and what hope is there for singles and married couples who have sinned sexually?



*This mystery is profound*

## Discussion Questions

14. Read Song of Solomon 4:10, 16. Why do you suppose God created sex to be so enjoyable and what does it teach us about ourselves (married and singles) and God?
15. What advice does the sermon give for married couples that are not experiencing joy in sex? What other advice might you add?
16. How does the consummation presented in Song of Songs 4:1-5:1 affect your hope for Christ's return?
17. Take some time to pray for married couples to enjoy sex the way God designed it and for singles to walk in sexual holiness.



*This mystery is profound*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

July 24

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON



CONFLICT: WHEN SINNERS SAY "I DO"

Song of Solomon 5:2 - 6:13

# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

Song of Solomon 5:2 - 6: 13

She

5:2 I slept, but my heart was awake.

A sound! My beloved is knocking.

"Open to me, my sister, my love,

my dove, my perfect one,

for my head is wet with dew,

my locks with the drops of the night."

3 I had put off my garment;

how could I put it on?

I had bathed my feet;

how could I soil them?

4 My beloved put his hand to the latch,

and my heart was thrilled within me.

5 I arose to open to my beloved,

and my hands dripped with myrrh,

my fingers with liquid myrrh,

on the handles of the bolt.

6 I opened to my beloved,

but my beloved had turned and gone.

My soul failed me when he spoke.

I sought him, but found him not;

I called him, but he gave no answer.

7 The watchmen found me

as they went about in the city;

they beat me, they bruised me,

they took away my veil,

those watchmen of the walls.



# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

8 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
if you find my beloved,  
that you tell him  
I am sick with love.

Others

9 What is your beloved more than another beloved,  
O most beautiful among women?  
What is your beloved more than another beloved,  
that you thus adjure us?

She

10 My beloved is radiant and ruddy,  
distinguished among ten thousand.

11 His head is the finest gold;  
his locks are wavy,  
black as a raven.

12 His eyes are like doves  
beside streams of water,  
bathed in milk,  
sitting beside a full pool.

13 His cheeks are like beds of spices,  
mounds of sweet-smelling herbs.  
His lips are lilies,  
dripping liquid myrrh.

# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

14 His arms are rods of gold,  
set with jewels.

His body is polished ivory,  
bedecked with sapphires.

15 His legs are alabaster columns,  
set on bases of gold.

His appearance is like Lebanon,  
choice as the cedars.

16 His mouth is most sweet,  
and he is altogether desirable.

This is my beloved and this is my friend,  
O daughters of Jerusalem.

Others

6:1 Where has your beloved gone,  
O most beautiful among women?  
Where has your beloved turned,  
that we may seek him with you?

She

2 My beloved has gone down to his garden  
to the beds of spices,  
to graze in the gardens  
and to gather lilies.

3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;  
he grazes among the lilies.

# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

He

4 You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love,  
lovely as Jerusalem,  
awesome as an army with banners.

5 Turn away your eyes from me,  
for they overwhelm me—  
Your hair is like a flock of goats  
leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes  
that have come up from the washing;  
all of them bear twins;  
not one among them has lost its young.

7 Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate  
behind your veil.

8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines,  
and virgins without number.

9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one,  
the only one of her mother,  
pure to her who bore her.

The young women saw her and called her blessed;  
the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.

10 "Who is this who looks down like the dawn,  
beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun,  
awesome as an army with banners?"

# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

She

11 I went down to the nut orchard  
to look at the blossoms of the valley,  
to see whether the vines had budded,  
whether the pomegranates were in bloom.  
12 Before I was aware, my desire set me  
among the chariots of my kinsman, a prince.

Others

13 Return, return, O Shulammite,  
return, return, that we may look upon you.

~~~

# Conflict:

## When Sinners Say "I Do"

Last week we looked at an idealized version of marriage. But let's be honest...none of us has ever had, nor will ever have, an ideal marriage. For starters, we are sinners; therefore we bring our sin nature into the marriage. Secondly, our spouses are sinners, who also bring their sin nature into the marriage. When a sinner marries a sinner, no matter how in love they are or committed they are to one another, sin will be present in the marriage. A harsh word here. A selfish act there. A heart that harbors resentment instead of freely extending grace.

Anyone who has ever been married for more than a day can identify with the struggles of marriage. Anyone who has ever had a roommate or a sibling or coworker can equally attest to the realities of a fallen world that inevitably brings about conflict in EVERY relationship. When you look at your marriage you might be tempted to ask, is there something terribly wrong here? The answer is both yes and no. There is something terribly wrong...our own sinful hearts. But there is also something terribly natural about the struggles we face...In this world you WILL have troubles. My point is simply this, ditching your marriage and trying again won't actually fix the problem you face. It may fix the immediate problem of your spouse not paying attention to you or taking you for granted or the arguments you are currently having. But it won't fix the root problem of sin. That will follow you wherever you go, no matter who you marry.

Song of Solomon is a beautiful love poem that reminds us that even in the best of marriages, conflict will arise. Just one verse after the celebration of the joys of marital sex we find there is trouble in paradise. Join us this week as we look at how a marriage centered on Christ confronts conflict. And if you're single, remember this applies to you as well. As already stated, all of our relationships experience conflict. Song of Solomon isn't just for married couples, it challenges each of us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In Him,  
Pastor TJ



*Think about these things*

## Discussion Questions

1. What are the different types of relationships you have and what are the most common types of conflict with each one?
2. How does the Song of Solomon display the “ideal couple” and why are chapters 5-6 so important in helping us to understand how natural conflict can be?
3. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-6 and describe the nature of the conflict (note there are several different opinions on what the conflict actually involves).
4. What are some different ways that the world sends us the message that relationships/marriages should be easy or trouble free?
5. How does the Bible send us a very different message about relationships and conflict?
6. Can you share with the group a time when a relationship was harder than you thought it would be? How did you handle it? Looking back, is there anything you could have done differently?
7. What’s the cycle of conflict that Solomon and the Shulamite experience? Can you empathize with their experience?



*Think about these things*

## Discussion Questions

8. Read Song of Solomon 2:15. What “foxes” did the sermon mention? What other “foxes” would you add to the list of marriages/friendships.
9. From the previous list, choose one or two that are most common to the group and then discuss how we are to Biblically address these conflicts.
10. Read James 4:1-2. How do these verses confront our sin problem and call us to the hard work of reconciliation?
11. Read Song of Solomon 5:2, 4-6, 8. What mindsets have been most helpful for you in maintaining a healthy marriage/friendship?
12. Read Song of Solomon 5:6. Share a time when you felt this type of conviction over conflict.
13. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-19. How can this be applied practically to conflicts in our relationships?
14. Read Song of Solomon 5:6-8. Describe the hardships she endured and her persistence to be a peacemaker.
15. How can we grow in our persistence in our present relationship conflicts?

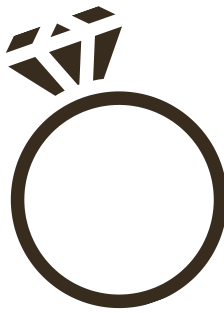




*Think about these things*

## Discussion Questions

16. Read Song of Solomon 5:8. What does she ask of the women and why?
17. What qualities should you look for in a friend who is a counselor/mediator?
18. Read Song of Solomon 5:10-16 and Philippians 4:8. Discuss the difference between stirring up anger (meditating on the hurt) and stirring up love (meditating on the good).
19. What are some practical things people can do to better stir up love?
20. Read Song of Solomon 5:10, 16, 6:4-10 and discuss the godly character each person possesses.
21. How can we continue to grow in our own holiness and how will this affect our relationships?
22. Read Song of Solomon 6:11. What are some things couples can do to perform a marital check-up? Is there anything they should be careful NOT to do during marital check-ups?



*Think about these things*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON SONG OF SONGS

July 31

# SONG THE OF SOLOMON



MATURITY:  
TENDING THE GARDEN OF LOVE  
Song of Solomon 7:1 - 8:14

# Maturity:

# Tending the Garden of Love

Song of Solomon 7:1 - 8:14

7:1 How beautiful your sandaled feet,  
O prince's daughter!

Your graceful legs are like jewels,  
the work of an artist's hands.

2 Your navel is a rounded goblet  
that never lacks blended wine.

Your waist is a mound of wheat  
encircled by lilies.

3 Your breasts are like two fawns,  
like twin fawns of a gazelle.

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower.  
Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon  
by the gate of Bath Rabbim.

Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon  
looking toward Damascus.

5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel.  
Your hair is like royal tapestry;  
the king is held captive by its tresses.

6 How beautiful you are and how pleasing,  
my love, with your delights!

7 Your stature is like that of the palm,  
and your breasts like clusters of fruit.

8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree;  
I will take hold of its fruit."

May your breasts be like clusters of grapes on the vine,  
the fragrance of your breath like apples,

9 and your mouth like the best wine.

# Maturity:

## Tending the Garden of Love

She

May the wine go straight to my beloved,  
flowing gently over lips and teeth.

10 I belong to my beloved,  
and his desire is for me.

11 Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside,  
let us spend the night in the villages.

12 Let us go early to the vineyards  
to see if the vines have budded,  
if their blossoms have opened,  
and if the pomegranates are in bloom—  
there I will give you my love.

13 The mandrakes send out their fragrance,  
and at our door is every delicacy,  
both new and old,  
that I have stored up for you, my beloved.

# Maturity:

# Tending the Garden of Love

8:1 If only you were to me like a brother,  
who was nursed at my mother's breasts!

Then, if I found you outside,  
I would kiss you,  
and no one would despise me.

2 I would lead you  
and bring you to my mother's house—  
she who has taught me.

I would give you spiced wine to drink,  
the nectar of my pomegranates.

3 His left arm is under my head  
and his right arm embraces me.

4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you:  
Do not arouse or awaken love  
until it so desires.

Friends

5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness  
leaning on her beloved?

# Maturity:

## Tending the Garden of Love

She

Under the apple tree I roused you;  
there your mother conceived you,  
there she who was in labor gave you birth.

6 Place me like a seal over your heart,  
like a seal on your arm;  
for love is as strong as death,  
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.  
It burns like blazing fire,  
like a mighty flame.

7 Many waters cannot quench love;  
rivers cannot sweep it away.  
If one were to give  
all the wealth of one's house for love,  
it would be utterly scorned.

Friends

8 We have a little sister,  
and her breasts are not yet grown.  
What shall we do for our sister  
on the day she is spoken for?

9 If she is a wall,  
we will build towers of silver on her.  
If she is a door,  
we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

# Maturity:

## Tending the Garden of Love

She

10 I am a wall,

and my breasts are like towers.

Thus I have become in his eyes

like one bringing contentment.

11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon;

he let out his vineyard to tenants.

Each was to bring for its fruit

a thousand shekels of silver.

12 But my own vineyard is mine to give;

the thousand shekels are for you, Solomon,

and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

He

13 You who dwell in the gardens

with friends in attendance,

let me hear your voice!

She

14 Come away, my beloved,

and be like a gazelle

or like a young stag

on the spice-laden mountains.

~~~



# Maturity:

# Tending the Garden of Love

What a journey we have taken through the book of The Song of Solomon.

Our goal is to end the book the way we began, by looking at God's love for His people. The context of love is set in a marriage, which Ephesians reminds us, is a picture of how Jesus loves the church. The context of that marriage, in the last chapters of The Song of Solomon, is a couple that has experienced the thrills of pursuit, the joys of the wedding night, the frustrations of conflict, and are now fighting hard for their marriage to mature rather than sour. What a shame for someone to do all the hard work of tilling, planting, and watering a garden, only to neglect to tend it.

In chapters 7 and 8 Solomon and the Shulamite are seen tending the garden of love, and in turn it is a reminder for us all that our love for the Lord must be tended.

As I finished reading the last chapter of The Song of Solomon, I couldn't help but think about the parallels to the book of Revelation. A garden, a river, a wedding, a priceless gift given without price, the bride's beckoning...Come Lord Jesus. And how can we forget the opening warning of Revelation.... You have forgotten your first love...

REMEMBER...RETURN...LOVE AGAIN!

Stirring up love with you,

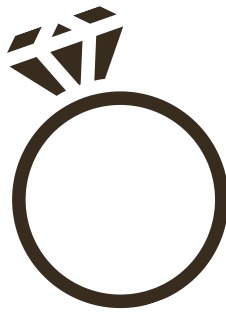
Pastor TJ



*Return to your first love*

## Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of things that get better or worse with time. What about love and marriage, where does/should it fall on the list?
2. Read Song of Solomon 6:11-12. What do you think this passage is referring to?
3. What are some ways that couples can self-examine their relationship's health?
4. Read 2 Cor. 13:5, Rev. 2:4-5. How can we as Christians take an accurate self-examination of our relationship with Jesus?
5. Read Song of Solomon 7:1-9. In what ways do both Solomon and the Shulamite verbally express their love (consider the whole book)?
6. Why do you think so much of the book focuses on their verbal expression of love?
7. Why do people struggle to verbally express love and how can they improve?
8. Read Zephaniah 3:17, 1 John 4:9-10, and any other relevant passage. How does God verbally express His love toward us and why?



*Return to your first love*

## Discussion Questions

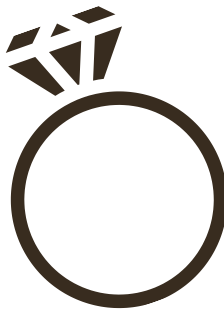
9. Read Song of Solomon 7:11-12, and any other relevant passage. How does The Shulamite and Solomon pursue one another?
10. What are some ways that married couples can continue to pursue one another and what are the barriers to pursuit?
11. Read Eph. 1:4, Ezekiel 16:8, Rev. 3:20. In what ways has God pursued you and how does that make you feel?
12. Read Song of Solomon 7:13, 8:5, Prov. 31:14-15. How do both Solomon and the Shulamite provide and protect one another?
13. What are some practical ways today that couples today can continue to provide and protect each other?
14. Read Song of Solomon 8:5. How is this a picture of Israel and in what ways did God specifically provide for them?
15. Read James 1:17, 2 Peter 1:3-4, 2 Sam. 22:3-4, Psalm 55:22, Deut. 33:27. Share with the group how God has provided and protected you recently.



*Return to your first love*

## Discussion Questions

16. Read Song of Solomon 8:2-4, 8-9. How did this couple ensure that they were a part of the larger fabric of society rather than being only inwardly focused?
17. How should married couples balance private time (time spent with the couple only) and public time (time spent with the community)?
18. What are some ways we can ensure we are engrafting into the larger community of faith rather than being only inwardly focused?
19. Read Song of Solomon 8:6-7. What is the woman specifically asking for and what truth is the text teaching about love?
20. Why do you think more and more people are breaking the marriage covenant (even among church people) and what challenge does the above text give marriages?
21. Take some time to discuss the covenant that God has made with us.



*Return to your first love*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports