



Life Group Study

Song of Solomon 1-3

The Wonders of True Love

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the Old Testament book “Song of Songs” is to tell of the love between a bridegroom (King Solomon) and his bride, to affirm the sanctity of marriage, and to depict God’s great love for his people. This is a dramatic story written as a poem featuring the love dialogue between a simple Jewish maiden (the Shulammite woman) and her lover (Solomon, the king). They describe in great detail their feelings for each other as well as their longings to be together. Throughout the book, sex and marriage are put in their proper, God given perspective. Scholars have debated much whether it is a literal story about married love or an allegory of God’s love for Israel and/or the church. In reality, it is both. On one level, we learn about human love, marriage and sex and on the other we see God’s amazing and overwhelming love for his people. As you read this book, remember that you are loved by God, and commit yourself to seeing life, sex and marriage from God’s point of view.

Read Song of Solomon 1:1-4

What are some of the similes and metaphors used in this passage? Are they helpful in describing a special love relationship? Are they a bit embarrassing? Or are they real and pure?

Read Chapter 1: 5-7

How do you think the girl feels about the color or tone of her skin? How do you think Solomon felt about the girl’s skin color? Do you think this caused insecurity with the girl in her relationship with Solomon? How does Solomon overcome such potential insecurity in the girl he loves? How do people in our culture try to find true love? Why does that type of genuine love seem so illusive? How can we better realize the true and genuine love of God today?

Think of some steps that you can take this week to love Jesus unconditionally.

Read Song of Solomon 2:1-7

How do the metaphors of used in these verses describe the girl's feelings about Solomon? What might be some appropriate metaphors we might use today? How do you communicate with the special people in your life? What are some ways you can show how special they are? Try to follow through on some of those suggestions this week and share stories within your group of how God works to strengthen and grow these special relationships.

Read Chapter 2:8-13

In this passage we find the lovers celebrating their joy in God's incredible creation and in their love. What are some ways we can slow down or even stop our crazy-busy lifestyles to enjoy the beauty of God's creation? How has sin taken over and complicated our views of the sexual relationship? What are some ways we can develop a more intimate relationship with God?

Read Chapter 2:15

What do the foxes represent in this verse? It is often these "little foxes" that can cause the biggest problems in a marriage. How can we identify and capture these "little foxes" so the damage doesn't ruin and destroy the loving relationships in our lives?

Read Song of Solomon 3:1-5

Can you recall a time that made a decision out of a desire for your own comfort and security due to self-centeredness? So how did that go? Did that decision cause damage to someone you deeply care about? Now can you recall a time when you sacrificed your own needs for someone you truly love? Did that relationship benefit and grow? Jesus gave up his own comfort and security for us. What do these five verses tell you about how God feels about you?

Let's all try to go out of our way this week and sacrifice something from the time, talent and treasures that God has given to us and see how He shows up. Share those stories with one another as encouragement to love others well!