

Life Group Study Guide Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14

Introduction

The Song of Solomon closes with a summary of the now married bridegroom (King Solomon) and his bride (the Shulamite woman). This section shows us how this couple's marriage (and all marriages) can grow and mature in spite of problems. We can break down this section as follows: a major disagreement (5:2-6:3), restoration (6:4-8:4), and growing in grace (8:5-14). This love poem deals with real human relationships and shows us that all loving committed marriages are reflections of God's love. Love for a spouse should be how God loves his church (his bride).

Read Song of Solomon 5:2-8.

Inevitably, with the passing of time and the growth of familiarity, a marriage will start to lose its initial spark. Conflicts and pressures may creep in, causing spouses to lose their tenderness toward one another. The world is not a haven for marriages, and external stress often works against them.

- Discuss what some of these external stresses are.
- How can spouses be havens for each other?
- How can intimacy be renewed and regenerated?

Read Song of Solomon 5:16.

Too often couples enter into marriage driven by the exciting feelings of love and passion before taking the time to develop a deep friendship. Friendship takes time, but it makes a love relationship go much deeper and is far more satisfying.

- What can you do to develop a deeper friendship with your spouse?

Read Song of Solomon 6:4-9.

In this section, Solomon is praising his bride's beauty. Words of affirmation are important for both spouses to hear. Gary Chapman has a great book that all married couples should read, called "The Five Love Languages." The five love languages are: Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch.

- Discuss the top two love languages that you respond to (if you don't know, then please read the book!). If you are married, are you speaking your spouse's language?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33.

Paul shows how marriage represents Christ's relationship with the church.

- How is a marriage similar to Christ's relationship with his church?
- In a marriage relationship, both husband and wife are called to submit. How does the husband submit to his wife? How does the wife submit to her husband?
- Some people feel that 5:22-24 gives unlimited authority to the husband. Discuss what submission means and how it relates to how a husband should treat his wife.
- Genesis 2:24, tells us that a married couple becomes "one flesh." Many marriages today have a "50/50" relationship instead of a 100/100 relationship. Discuss the differences between these two marriage philosophies.

Read Revelation 19:7, 8; 21:1, 2.

John pictures the second coming as a great marriage feast for Christ and his bride, his faithful followers.

- Can you think of similarities between human marriage and Christ's marriage with his bride, the church?

Marriages are to be accepted as a gift from God and shared within the guidelines that God provides. Those who are married should view the love of their spouse as God's gift, and strive to make their relationship a reflection of God's perfect love.

Close your time in prayer, praying specifically for each person's marriage.