



SMALL GROUP STUDY

God's Intention for Romantic Love

The Song of Solomon is an account of the love between Solomon and his betrothed. In this book we see a portrait of leaving your mother and father, cleaving to your spouse, and weaving your lives together with each other. Marriage is a reflection of the kind of love and joy that God has for his people.

The Engagement (1-3:5)

She, a shepherdess. He, the king of Israel. She is attracted to his character and self-conscious of her looks. She values her own purity--she wants to meet him, but she will not chase him. He notices her and compliments her beauty. From the beginning there is a spark.

Discussion Questions:

- Song of Solomon 2:4--His banner over me is love. What does that mean?
- Why is character more important than beauty?
- Song of Solomon 2:15--what is meant by the little foxes that ruin the vineyard?
- Examine your heart: what little foxes may have come into your relationship with your spouse or the Lord?

The Wedding (3:6-5:1)

The wedding procession is coming! King Solomon is coming to take her to his home. He speaks gently with her and they consummate their marriage. This section gives a beautiful picture of the physical love relationship that God designed for a husband and wife devoted to each other.

Discussion Questions:

- How does King Solomon coming with an armed guard give his future bride a sense of safety? Why is safety important in a marriage relationship?
- How does he describe her hair, her teeth, her temples, her breasts and what do these sayings really mean?
- Song of Solomon 4:12--What does this verse speak of?

The Marriage, Conflict Resolution and Committed Romance (7-8)

They are married. The honeymoon is over. It seems they have a spat and he is locked out. They are apart, yet they are lovesick for one another. Although it is vague, it appears that they do reconcile their differences and come together in renewed commitment to each other. It is normal that there will be conflict in any relationship. Resolution is important for the marriage to mature; romance is based on commitment.

Discussion Questions:

- What can you learn from Solomon and his bride that will help you in your marriage? Or,
- What can you learn from Solomon or his bride on how to be the perfect mate?
- How is our relationship with Jesus Christ like that of a bridegroom?
- Examine your heart: In what way can you show true commitment and love toward your spouse? and, to Jesus Christ?