

He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.

"LOVE IN MARRIAGE"
READ Song of Songs 1:1 – 8:14

This is one of Solomon's songs that has been preserved for us. It is divided into three parts: Courtship 1:1-3:5, Wedding 3:6-5:1, and Married Life 5:2-8:14.

As you read, look beyond the literal meanings of the song to its spiritual value to you as a Christian. Think of the Bridegroom (Solomon) as Christ and the Bride (the Shulammite Woman) as you, a Christian, or the church. The friends or daughters of Jerusalem function as a chorus for transition.

DAY 1 - REVIEW Song of Songs 1:1-3:5 The Courtship

1. In 1:2-7 the woman is drawn to Solomon.
 - a. How did she describe him?
 - b. Why was she insecure about her desirability in verse 6?
2. In 1:8-2:17 we are told of their mutual affection.
 - a. List some of the expressions used by Solomon.
 - b. . . . used by the woman.
 - c. How did she see herself through his eyes in 2:1?
 - d. What does 2:4 mean in relation to you and Christ?
3. "My lover is mine and I am his; . . ." (2:16) is an apt description of our union with Christ. Write 1 John 4:15.
4. What was the woman's distress in 3:2-5?
. . . relief?

DAY 2 - REVIEW Song of Songs 3:6-5:1 The Wedding

5. a. In 3:6-11 the bride sees the bridegroom coming. How was he described?
- b. Relate a time in your life when you have experienced the joy of seeing Christ come into the life of another person.

DAY 2 (Continued) - REVIEW Song of Songs 3:6-5:1 The Wedding

6. As Solomon described six beauty attributes of his bride in 4:1-6, how did he sum it up in verse 7?

7. Continuing to extol her virtues in 4:8-15, the groom and his bride consummate their marriage in 4:15-5:1. How did Jesus instruct the disciples to bring people into the church and union with him in Matthew 28:19-20?

DAY 3 - REVIEW Song of Songs 5:2 – 6:1 Married Life

8. a. Married life began for the couple. The wife had a troubled dream that what had happened in verse 6?
 - b. True or false: her solution was to . . .
 - look for him herself
 - ask friends to look for him
 - give a description of him (biased by admiration)
 - hire a private detective

DAY 4 - REVIEW Song of Songs 6:2-7:9 Marriage Intimacy

9. Problem solved – he had gone for a walk in the garden. He reassures her of his love in 6:8-9 how?

10. a. Why do you think reassurance is often needed in every relationship?
 - b. What are some ways to extend that reassurance?

 - c. How does Christ reassure you of His love?

11. In 7:1-9 Solomon gently praises his bride from her feet to her head. Intimacy and passion nourish the marriage. How has society today undermined the sanctity of marriage?

DAY 5 - REVIEW Song of Songs 7:10-8:14 The Maturing Marriage

12. In 7:11 is the invitation to "go to the countryside . . . spend nights in the villages."

- What are some of the advantages to a "get away" for married couples?
- Married or not, what was your last outing and who did you go with?
- What is your personal "get away" preference destination . . . beach, mountains, cruise, something else?

13. In 8:6 love . . .

- is as strong as
- it burns like

14. How is the message "the trials of marriage don't quench love" expressed in verse 7?

15. Chapter 8 ends with the thought that tribute was given to the king as a requirement; however, the wife gives tribute to her husband willingly. What does Paul write in these verses from Ephesians 5 about husbands and wives?

- Verse 22
- Verse 28
- Verse 33

16. What do you think is the key to a lasting, happy marriage?

UNITED KINGDOM 28-4

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LECTURE NOTES:

PRAYER REQUESTS: