

Answers

Study 1: The Finding of Love

Song of Songs 1:1-7

1. Who is the Shulamite thinking of? What happens when she remembers his smell and hears his name? 1:2-3

Of the love of the one she delights in.

Sos 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for your love is more delightful than wine. ³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you!

2. What is she hoping would happen? 1:4

Take me away!

Sos 1:4 Take me away with you--let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you (Hebrew: masculine singular); we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!

3. Who is speaking here about the Shulamite's lover? 1:4b Cf. 1:5; 2:7; 3:5; 8:4

Daughters of Jerusalem

4. Is the Shulamite proud of the one she loves? 1:4c

How right they are to adore you!

5. How does she feel about her own complexion and beauty when speaking to her friends? 1:5

I am dark, yet lovely. Like the tent curtains of Salma.

Sos 1:5 Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. {Or Salma}

6. How confident does she feel before the eyes of the one she loves? What work did she have to do for those who were perhaps her half-brothers? 1:6

Sos 1:6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected.

7. What does it mean that '*her own vineyard she has not kept*'? 1:6

She has neglected to take care of her skin and beauty.

8. What does the Shulamite want to know about Solomon? Who does she think he is? 1:7

She thinks he is a shepherd. Where does he graze his flock?

Sos 1:7 Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

9. What does Solomon think of her? 1:8

Sos 1:8 ...most beautiful of women

10. Did Solomon give her a straight answer? Where will the Shulamite find him? What other task apart from attending her brothers; vineyards did she have? 1:8

Sos 1:8 If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.

Reflection & Application _____

1. How should a young lady see her lover? What must she experience? 1:2-4; 1:7

Sos 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for your love is more delightful than wine. ³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you! ⁴ Take me away with you--let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; {The Hebrew is masculine singular.} we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you! ⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

2. How should she view herself? 1:5

Sos 1:5 Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. {Or Salma}

3. How must a young man see his beloved? How should he see his beloved compared to other women? 1:8

Sos 1:8 If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. How does the beloved (believer) feel about his/her presence with the King (Jesus)? How about your *complexion* darkened by the sun?
The believer desires to be with Jesus and know more about Jesus.
The believer's 'complexion' has been damaged by sin.
2. How does Jesus feel about you?

Jesus loves his bride. Isaiah 63:4-5; Ephesians 5:25; 32

Study 2: The Fostering of Love I

Song of Songs 1:8-2:7

1. How does Solomon feel about the Shulamite? Is this a flattering thing to liken a young woman to a horse? 1:9-10

Horses were highly valued by many ancient cultures.
2. What do her friends promise her? 1:11

Sos 1:11 We will make you ear-rings of gold, studded with silver.
3. Where does she imagine herself to be? What fragrance does she wear? What is nard? 1:12

Did she at this stage actually know that he was a king?
4. What does his smell remind her of? How does she think of her lover? How does she describe him? What are myrrh and henna blossoms? 1:13-14

Very sweet-smelling resin (myrrh) and flowers (henna blossoms).
5. How did her lover see her? 1:15

Sos 1:15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.
6. How does the beloved speak of their future house? The house they will dwell in together once they are married. 1:16-17

Sos 1:16 How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. ¹⁷ The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.
7. How does the Shulamite see herself? 1:5; 2:1

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

8. And how does her lover see her compared to other women? 2:2

Sos 2:2 Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.

9. How does the Shulamite see the king? What ideas do the words shade and fruit convey? 2:3

Her protector and provider.

Song of Solomon 2:3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is **my lover** among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade (**protection**), and his fruit (**provision**) is sweet to my taste.

10. What does the Shulamite recount to her friends regarding her first outing with her lover? Is he ashamed of her? 2:4-6

Sos 2:4 He has taken me to the **banquet hall (feast)**, and **his banner over me is love (love is public)**. ⁵ Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love (**effect**). ⁶ His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me (**embraces**).

11. How did her lover treat her? 2:4-6

He is not ashamed of her. He embraces her to show his love for her.

12. What is the lover's effect on the Shulamite? 2:5

Sos 2:5 Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love (**effect**).

13. What does she urge her friends not to do? What does this mean? 2:7

Grave Warning!

Sos 2:7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Reflection & Application _____

1. How should a young man see his beloved? How must he see his beloved compared to other women? 1:8-10; 1:15; 2:2

As a beautiful flower. Like a lily among thorns.

2. How should a young lady see her lover? What must she experience? 1:13-14; 1:16; 2:3

Love his smell. Find him handsome and charming. See him as her protector and provider.

3. How should she view herself? 2:1
Like a beautiful flower, a lily of the valleys.
4. What must you do if these elements are missing in the relationship?
Call it off.
5. What should one not do before the right time, and why not? 2:7
Awaken love if you are not ready for marriage.
6. Did the Shulamite know that the lover was the king, or was this information added later after she got to know his true identity? 1:7
No. Probably thought he was a shepherd.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. How does Jesus feel about you? Is he ashamed of you? Hebrews 2:11; 11:16
Not at all. Hebrews 2:11; 11:16
2. How does the believer feel about his/her presence with the King (Jesus)? John 6:68
The believer desires to be with Jesus. John 6:68
3. How much do you long to spend time with Jesus?
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Study 3: The Fostering of Love II

Song of Songs 2:8-3:5

1. How did the Shulamite wait for and experience her lover's interest? 2:8-9
Song 2:8 Listen! **My lover!** Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. (**can't stay away**)
⁹ My **lover** is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.
2. Where does her lover want her to be? 2:10-13
Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.

3. How does the lover (Solomon) see his beloved, the Shulamite? What does he want to hear and see? What does a dove in the clefts in the rock make you think of? 2:14

He wants to catch a glimpse of her and hear her voice.

Sos 2:14 My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding-places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

4. Who most likely is speaking here? What do they want her to do? 2:15

The stepbrothers.

Sos 2:15 Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

5. How does the Shulamite experience the love of Solomon? What does she think of her lover? Is their love to be shared with others? 2:16

Sos 2:16 My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.

6. When does she want him to leave? What does this tell you about them? How long do they want their time together to last? 2:17

Only when the day breaks. She does not want him to leave.

Sos 2:17 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

7. What disturbing dream did the Shulamite have? 3:1

The Shulamite's dreamt that she could not find her lover.

^{ESV} Song of Songs 3:1 On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not.

8. In her dream, what did she decide to do? 3:2-3

To rise and search for him throughout the city.

Sos 3:2 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?"

9. What happens when she finds her lover in her dream? 3:4

She would not let go of him.

Sos 3:4 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.

10. What does she again urge her friends not to do? 3:5

Sos 3:5 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.

Reflection & Application _____

1. Where does a true lover want to be? What will a man do if he really loves a woman?

With his beloved. He will do whatever it takes to be near her.

2. What does the world look like when you are in love?

Beautiful and bright.

3. In whose company do lovers only want to be?

Each other's company.

3. When a couple loves each other, for how long can they talk?

For a long time. Till the day breaks.

4. How does this apply to married couples?

Should be the same.

5. What should one not arouse before the right time and why?

The love between a man and a woman. As love can only find true fulfilment in marriage.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. With whom does the believer desire to be?

With Jesus.

2. How does the believer view Jesus?

He is mine, and I am his. Sos 2:16

3. How does Jesus feel about the believer? Does Jesus see you as beautiful? Ephesians 5:25-32

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." {Gen. 2:24} ³² This is a profound mystery- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

4. If you love Jesus, how much time do you spend talking with Jesus? Sos 2:17

Sos 2:17 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee...

Study 4: The Fulfilment of Love I

Song of Songs 3:6-4:9

1. What do the Shulamite's friends call out on the day her lover returns? 3:7-8

Sos 3:6 Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant? ⁷ Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel...

2. What did she realise about her notion that he perhaps was a shepherd? 3:9-10

She understood that he was the King.

Sos 3:9 King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon. ¹⁰ Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by {Or its inlaid interior a gift of love from} the daughters of Jerusalem.

3. To whom does the Shulamite call out in excitement? 3:11a

The daughters of Jerusalem.

Sos 3:11 Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon wearing the crown ...

4. What did Solomon come to do? Who was his mother? 3:11b, c

To fetch his bride for the wedding. Bathsheba.

Sos 3:11 ... the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.

On the Day of the Wedding...

5. How did her lover, i.e. the king, feel about her? 4:1, 7

Sos 4:1 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.

⁷ All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.

6. How did her lover, the king, describe her? Was there anything about her that he did not find beautiful? 4:1-7

Eyes, temples, hair, neck, lips, breasts

Sos 4:1 ...Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.

² Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. ³ Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. ⁴ Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. ⁵ Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. ⁶ Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.

7. Will he ever grow tired of her love? 4:6 cf. 2:17

Sos 4:6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.

8. What did Solomon want her to become? 4:8

His bride.

Sos 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards.

9. What has she done to him? 4:9

Sos 4:9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.

Reflection & Application _____

1. Should the bride be proud of her bridegroom?

Yes.

2. How should every bridegroom feel about his bride?

That she is beautiful.

3. Will the bridegroom ever tire of her love?

Never.

4. What should every bride do to the bridegroom?

Steal his heart.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. How does the believer experience Jesus? Will you be surprised when he fetches us as the King? Revelation 19:7-9

He is our bridegroom and our King. We know he is coming for us.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

2. What is the great event every believer is waiting for? Isaiah 62:3-5; Revelation 19:7; 21:2

The marriage of the Lamb.

Isaiah 62:3 You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, {Hephzibah means my delight is in her.} and your land Beulah; {Beulah means married.} for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. ⁵ As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons {Or Builder} marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3. Are you certain that you are an invited guest of honour at the final wedding?

Yes.

4. Can someone think they love Jesus and still miss the wedding? Matthew 25:1-13

The five foolish virgins did.

Matthew 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

Study 5: The Fulfilment of Love II

Song of Songs 4:10-5:1

1. How does her lover experience her love? What do these words convey? 4:10

Sos 4:10 How **delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! (intimate closeness and friendship)** How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! (**love**)

2. What was her fragrance like to Solomon and what were her kisses like? 4:11

Sos 4:11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. (**physical and the senses**)

3. Which metaphors did Solomon use to describe her? 4:12-15

A garden locked up - private
 A sealed fountain - exclusive
 An orchard. - every conceivable blessing
 A garden spring - refreshing and pure

Sos 4:12 You are **a garden locked up, my sister, my bride** you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. (**private and exclusive**); ¹³ Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, ¹⁴ nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. (**incredible blessing**) ¹⁵ You are **a garden fountain**, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. (**refreshing and pure**)

4. What do these images convey? 4:12-13; Proverbs 5:15-19

Private, promise, exclusivity, enjoyment, blessing.

Proverbs 5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. ¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer--may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

5. What is the experience of this garden like? 4:13-15

Everything that captivates, enchants and pleases the heart.

Sos 4:13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard,
¹⁴ nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.
¹⁵ You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.

6. What does the love of the Shulamite promise her lover? 4:16

Blessing, enjoyment, exclusivity, love.

Sos 4:16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

7. What does the lover call his beloved? Why? 5:1

My sister, my bride. They are not just lovers, but they are best friends. A brother and sister in the LORD.

8. How happy are the friends for the Shulamite and her lover? 5:1c; Cf. 1:4b

Sos 5:1 Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.

9. What is the experience of the lover from his beloved? 5:1b

Song of Solomon 5:1 I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.

Reflection & Application _____

1. Should lovers, that is, a husband and wife, find enjoyment in one another?

Yes.

2. What does this love relationship bring?

Fulfilment of love. Companionship. Friendship.

3. When only can lovers truly enjoy all the physical, spiritual, as well as emotional benefits by becoming one?

Only within the exclusive bonds of marriage.

4. In a marriage where both the man and the woman are believers, what are they to each other, apart from being lovers?

Sister and brother.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. Is the relationship between Jesus and the believer exclusive? Why?

Yes. He is the only Saviour.

2. Why is the relationship between Christ and the church (believers) described in terms of a marriage relationship? Ephesians 5:31-32

The relationship between Jesus and the church is the original. The marriage relationship between a husband and a wife is the copy.

Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." {Gen. 2:24}

³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

3. Describe the love between the beloved and Jesus. Isaiah 62:3-5

Isaiah 62:3 You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah (my delight is in her), and your land Beulah (married); for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. ⁵ As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Study 6: The Frustration of Love

Song of Songs 5:2-6:3

1. Is this an actual event, or a metaphorical description of some misunderstanding? 5:2

A misunderstanding in the marriage relationship.

Sos 5:2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night."

2. What did the beloved reply when she heard the knock and the call? 5:3
She was delaying in her decision to reconcile quickly. She was thinking about the reasons that made this uncomfortable.

Sos 5:3 I have taken off my robe--must I put it on again? I have washed my feet--must I soil them again?

3. Where did her lover desire to be? 5:4

He desired to be with her.

Sos 5:4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him.

4. Did the beloved respond with anticipation? 5:5

She responded in love and anticipation to be reunited with her love.

Sos 5:5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock.

5. Was she quick enough to respond? 5:6

It took too long.

Sos 5:6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. {Or heart had gone out to him when he spoke} I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.

6. Where did she go and look for him? What did the watchmen do to her? 5:7

In the city.

Sos 5:7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!

7. Is this a literal event, a parable, or a metaphorical description? 5:7
How does this compare with her previous encounter with the watchmen? 3:3.

It is metaphorical. Describing the pain of a relationship experiencing temporary misunderstanding and conflict.

Sos 5:7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!

8. Does she seek help from her friends? 5:8

Yes.

Sos 5:8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you--if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.

9. Do they respond kindly to her request? Do others always understand or respond kindly to our marital problems? 5:9

They do not really offer any help.

Sos 5:9 How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?

10. How does she still feel about her lover, her husband? 5:10

She loves him dearly.

Sos 5:10 My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.

11. How does she describe him? 5:11-16

Head- gold	Hair – black and wavy
Eyes like doves	Cheeks – like beds of spice
Lips – lilies dripping with myrrh	Arms – rods of gold.
Body – polished ivory	Legs – pillars of marble
Appearance – like Lebanon	Mouth – sweetness itself

Sos 5:11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

¹² His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. ¹³ His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. ¹⁴ His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. {Or lapis lazuli} ¹⁵ His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. ¹⁶ His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

12. Do the friends respond kindly to the Shulamite? 6:1

They were willing to help

Song of Solomon 6:1 Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women?
Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you?

13. Where did she think he went? 6:2

Sos 6:2 My lover has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies.

14. What was she well sure of? 6:3

Sos 6:3 **I am my lover's and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies.**

Reflection & Application _____

1. Are there misunderstandings in marriage? Give some examples.

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2. What is the inevitable result?
Separation, heartache, pain.
3. Is it sometimes necessary to seek external help?
Yes. From mature understanding saints with wisdom.
4. In what way must one always think of one's lover?
With great honour and respect.
5. What must we be sure of in marriage?
I am my lover's and my lover is mine.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. Can there be a temporary separation between the believer and Jesus?
Yes, and it is very painful.
2. What causes separation of the believer from Jesus?
Sin and neglect.
3. Do we sometimes need external help?
Yes. From mature believers.
4. How must the believer see Jesus?
As holy and beautiful in person and character.
5. What can the believer always be sure of? Romans 8:35-39
Nothing will separate us from the love of Jesus.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." (Psalm 44:22) ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Study 7: The Faithfulness of Love I

Song of Songs 6:4-7:9

1. How does Solomon (the lover) view his beloved? Does he still love her? 6:4

Sos 6:4 You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, majestic as troops with banners.
2. How does he experience her person? Does this sound familiar? 6:5-7

Eyes, hair, teeth, temples

Sos 6:5 Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead.
⁶ Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone.
⁷ Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.

Note: This is a shortened description of her as compared to his wedding song, the *wasf* or speech, in 4:1-5.

3. How does she compare with other women? 6:8-9

Sos 6:8 Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; ⁹ but my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favourite of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.

Note: Difficult to understand queens and concubines.

5. What is the response of the friends? 6:10

Sos 6:10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?
6. Where did she go? 6:11

Sos 6:11 I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom.
7. What do the friends call out? 6:13

Sos 6:13 Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?

Note: Dance of Mahanaim?

Note: A *dance before two armies* (ESV) or *dance of Mahanaim* (NIV).

- As at the dance of the two companies? (Sos 6:13 NAS)
- ...dancing between two lines of dancers? (Sos 7:1 NJB)

Probably when two lines of dancers face up, men on one side and women on the other, and after a while they switch partners.

8. What does the lover speak of in his love song? 7:1-5

This is the love song of a bridegroom (lover) to his beloved (bride)
Describing her feet, legs, navel, waist, breasts, nose, head, hair

Song of Solomon 7:1 How beautiful your sandalled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman'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, twins 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 towards Damascus. ⁵ Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses.

9. How does he still see her? 7:6

Sos 7:6 How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights!

10. How does he experience her love physically? 7:7-9

Sos 7:7 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 the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, ⁹ and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. {Septuagint, Aquila, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew lips of sleepers}

Reflection & Application _____

1. After a misunderstanding between two lovers in marriage, what should follow?

Reconciliation.

2. What must never change in marriage regarding two lovers' view of one another?

The love for one another.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. When we sin and experience separation from Jesus, what must never change?

Keep on looking for Jesus.

2. Will there ever come a time when Jesus will not love the believer anymore?
Romans 8:28-30; 35-39

Never.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

3. What must the believer do after he/she has experienced separation from Jesus?

Repent, ask forgiveness and return.

Study 8: The Faithfulness of Love II

Song of Songs 7:10- 8:4

1. What was the Shulamite's response? 7:10

Sos 7:10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

2. Does she want to spend time with her husband? 7:11

Sos 7:11 Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. {Or henna bushes}

3. Where will they go? What is the promise? 7:12

Sos 7:12 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.

4. What was she desiring? What did the Shulamite want? 7:13

Sos 7:13 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 lover.

Note: Mandrakes are believed to have medicinal properties to enhance fertility and conception.

Note: Lea bought Jacob's love with mandrakes from Rachel.

5. Is their love sexual or physical in nature only? 8:1

No, it is also friendship or brotherly love as well.

Song of Solomon 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.

6. Where would she take him as a friend? 8:2

Sos 8:2 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.

7. Is this relationship only friendship? 8:3

Sos 8:3 His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me.

8. What must the daughters of Jerusalem never do? 8:4

How important is this? How many times is this mentioned in the Song of Songs?

Sos 8:4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Reflection & Application _____

1. Should the beloved view herself with unshakable confidence, knowing that she is loved?

Yes.

2. Twice the lover speaks of *my sister, my bride*. Why is this significant?

When there is love between two lovers in marriage, they are not just lovers, but lifelong close companions. Like a sister and a brother.

3. Three times the Shulamite warn the daughters of Jerusalem not to awaken love until it so desires (2:7; 3:5; 8:4). What does it mean, and how important is this?

A relationship, when there is physical attraction, develops. If you are not willing to marry the person, do not arouse or awaken love, which leads to sexual activity outside of marriage. Rather, wait until such time that you are ready and willing to get married.

4. If your sexual desire will cause you to sin, what is it better to do? 1 Corinthians 7:9

1 Corinthians 7:9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. Should the believer view herself with unshakable confidence, knowing that she is loved? Romans 8:35, 37, 39

Yes. Romans 8:35, 37, 39

2. If you plan to get married, how important is it that your future husband or wife will be a believer too?

Not negotiable if you are a believer.

3. Should a believer ever marry an unbeliever?

Never.

4. Can you be spiritually unfaithful to Jesus and expect blessing?

No.

Study 9: True Love as God Intended

Song of Songs 8:5-14

1. How are two committed lovers when they are together? 8:5

Sos 8:5 Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover? Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labour gave you birth.

2. What is true love like according to the Shulamite? 8:6

Sos 8:6 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 (Sheol). It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame (Or like the very flame of the LORD).

3. Can you quench or extinguish true love? 8:7

Sos 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it {Or he} would be utterly scorned.

4. How should we protect the young, especially girls? 8:8-9

Sos 8:8 We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister for 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.

5. How will a young girl grow up well according to the Shulamite? 8:10

Sos 8:10 I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.

6. How exclusive is love? 8:11-12

Sos 8:11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels (about 11.5 kilograms) of silver.

¹² But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

7. Who alone can give the fullness of love to her lover? 8:12

Sos 8:12 But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

8. For whom is the lover's desire alone? 8:13

Sos 8:13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!

9. What promise does the future hold? 8:14

Sos 8:14 Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

Reflection & Application _____

1. Is marital love to be shared with anyone else except between one man and one woman in a permanent covenant relationship?

Never.

2. Why is pre-marital sex so devastating? 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

1 Corinthians 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me" --but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me" --but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" --but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." (Gen. 2:24) ¹⁷ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins

against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.

3. Why is adultery so devastating? 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The same reasons above. This is the greatest form of betrayal imaginable. You will destroy your marriage, your family, and cause immense harm to yourself, your spouse and your children.

4. If we are living and loving as God intended, what can we expect?

Blessings.

The Church & Jesus _____

1. To whom alone does the believer's love belong?

To Jesus.

2. How does the special love relationship in marriage give us a glimpse of the perfect love between Christ and the church? Ephesians 5:22-32

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing {Or having cleansed} her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." {Gen. 2:24} ³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

3. What is a godly marriage a copy of? What is the original? Ephesians 5:32

Ephesians 5:32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

4. Can we tamper with God's design and expect blessing?

Never.