

6. Is *liking* someone a necessary prerequisite to love? Why or why not?

7. If 1:8 and/or 1:11 are indeed spoken by the chorus of friends, then it is perceived as an affirmation of this budding romance (see also 1:4b).

If you are dating: What do your strongest Christian friends think about the person you are dating?

If you are in position to influence someone else who is dating: when is it appropriate to speak into that situation?

8. If you are dating: What would cause you to stop dating a person once you started a dating relationship?

If you are not dating: What principles would you speak into friends or children's lives about dating?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Rob Weise - Dir. of Church Health Forest Lakes Dist.

Pray for the 2016 District church health planning - pastor networks, conferences.

Sermon Notes

"The Romance that Comes Before Marriage"

Song of Solomon 1:7 – 2:7

February 7, 2016

Introduction:

1. _____ attraction

2. Mutually _____

3. Growing _____

4. Relational _____

5. _____ postponed

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 2-07-16

Tommy Nelson, *Tommy Nelson Bible Study Series: Song of Solomon*, Hudson Productions, Plano, TX, 2005, p. 7-12; Tommy Nelson, *The Book of Romance*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1998, p. 47.

Getting Started:

1. Most everyone has had bad dating experiences. Share the worst date you've ever been on.

Digging Deeper:

2. The man and the woman complement each other throughout this book. As you read this passage (Song of Solomon 1:7 – 2:7), note each compliment and point it out. How do we tend to encourage one another? What can we learn from the examples in this text?

3. Notice the nicknames the man and woman had for each other (1:9, 14, etc.; note the sheer number of names in 5:2!). "My darling" or "my friend" is a term of affection like our term "girlfriend," used to imply a special relationship. Shulamith is variously called "girlfriend" (1:9, 15; 2:2, 10, 13; 4:1, 7; 5:2; 6:4) "bride" (4:8,9,10,11,12) "my sister" (4:9,10,12; 5:1,2) and "my dove" (2:14; 5:2; 6:9). The singular noun "beloved" or "lover" (*dodh*) is the consistent term for the young man, though she frequently likens him to a gazelle or a young stag (2:9, 17; 8:14) (David Roper, *Song of a Longing Heart*, Discovery House Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 2005, p. 31). Why are nicknames endearing? What is it about them that draw us close?

4. The "rose of Sharon" and "lily of the valleys" (2:1) are likely simple, common wild flowers. "Dime a dozen." What does this comparison further reveal to you about this country maiden's self-perception (recall 1:5-6)?
5. A precursor to the exclusivity that we will see later in the Song ("my lover is mine and I am his" [2:16]) is the growing awareness of the uniqueness of their loved one. See if you can identify at least 4 occasions in this passage where the superiority of their loved one is poetically described. Do you recall the interpretation of each of these? Why is such an attitude toward one another so crucial in a romantic relationship?