1. **A celebration of love**
   a) Why is the Song of Solomon included in the Scriptures, with its uninhibited descriptions of the beauty of human love?
   b) Why is it important to recognize that every aspect of our lives is a precious gift from our loving Creator?
   c) Genesis 1:26–27, 2:7 What does it mean to be created in the image of God? (see also 1 John 4:8)
   d) Some see this royal love song as a description of God’s love for His church. What are your thoughts about that interpretation of the Song of Solomon?
   e) Which Scriptures emphasize the depths of God’s immeasurable and unfailing love for His creation?

2. **The gift of friendship**
   a) Song of Solomon 5:16 Why is friendship an important foundation for any love relationship?
   b) How is friendship nurtured?
   c) John 15:13–15 What are your thoughts about being a friend of Jesus?

3. **The gift of love**
   a) How can friendship grow into love?
   b) Song of Solomon 4:9 How can you distinguish between genuine love and infatuation?
   c) Solomon expresses his love with both words and actions. Why is it important to express your thoughts and feeling to someone you love?
   d) How can you discover a love language that the one you love can understand?

4. **The gift of intimacy**
   a) Song of Solomon 4:16 What is the significance of the Shulamite calling “my garden” “his garden”?
   b) Why is it important to remember intimacy is a gift rather than an entitlement?
   c) 1 Corinthians 7:3–5 How does Paul’s teaching about Christian marriage help us to understand the gift of intimacy?
   d) How can we nurture appropriate intimacy in human relationships?
   e) How can we nurture an intimate relationship with God?

5. **The right time**
   a) Song of Solomon 4:12 Why is it important to wait until marriage to express sexual intimacy?
   b) Genesis 2:24–25
   c) 1 Corinthians 6:15–18
   d) Share your testimony about the importance of waiting until the right time.
   e) What counsel would you give to a friend who regrets inappropriate expressions of intimacy?