

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 unending 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?

