

*Marriage and  
Song of Solomon  
Leader Guide*  
(NASB and ESV)

LEARNING HOW TO BECOME ONE

*Marriage and Song of Solomon Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)*

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Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

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1<sup>st</sup> edition (10/2021)

## USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

### Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

### Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**  
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**  
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

### Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


#### When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

#### For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON**  
**LESSON 1**  
**Leader Guide**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Marriage
- Husband's Role

*NOTE: As you begin this first discussion, tell your group to have in front of them the chart "God's Design for Man and Woman" and "The Husband's Role" list from the end of the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.*

*Also, tell your group it's important that they look at the texts they marked as you discuss each.*

**MARRIAGE**

Genesis 1:26-31

Ask what they learned from this text about man and woman.

God made mankind, male and female, to rule / have dominion over His creation.  
Man and woman were made in God's image.

God told them to multiply and fill the earth.

Genesis 2:7-25

What does this account teach about man, woman, and marriage? Tell your group to look at the chart at the end of the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

God formed man from dust and breathed into him the breath of life so that he became a living being / creature.

Then God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate / work and keep it.  
And He commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God said it wasn't good for man to be alone and He would make a helper suitable / fit for him.

Man had the responsibility to name the animals, creatures.  
As he did, there was no suitable / fit helper for him among them.

So the Lord God formed a woman from the man's rib to make his suitable / fit helper.

In verse 23, Adam realized she was like his flesh and bone—not like the animals, creatures.

Verses 24-25 explain God's design for marriage from the beginning when He created man, woman, and marriage.

Leave father and mother  
Joined / hold fast to wife, one flesh with her  
Naked and not ashamed

What is the definition of "joined / hold fast"?

"to cling, cleave to"<sup>1</sup>  
"be united"<sup>2</sup>

After gathering the facts to summarize what your group learned in Genesis 1 and 2, ask about God's intent for marriage.

God's intent for marriage was permanence in a close relationship like no other.

You might ask if they think this is still God's intent for marriage and why?

## **HUSBAND'S ROLE**

Now direct your group to what they studied in the lesson on Days Two through Five about the role of the husband in marriage. Tell them to look at their list about the husband's role as a visual aid for the rest of your discussion.

### 1 Corinthians 11:3-12

Tell them to look at the chart they completed on Day 2 and their diagram of headship as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

What is the order of headship?

God is the head of Christ  
Christ is the head of man  
Husband is the head of wife

How does this compare with the account in Genesis 2?

God created man first, then woman as his suitable / fit helper.

How does 1 Corinthians 11:3-12 describe the relationship between a husband and wife?

There is an order established by God, but they are not independent of one another.  
The husband is the head in the marriage.

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<sup>1</sup> James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G1692.

<sup>2</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Why is the husband the head of the wife after Genesis 3?

Eve was tempted by Satan to disobey God's command about eating from the tree. She was deceived and gave into the temptation. Adam was with her, and also ate instead of stopping her. He listened to his wife instead of obeying God.

Part of the consequences from God were for the husband to rule the wife. And he would have to toil for his food (ESV—eat of it in pain) and then return to dust when he died.

Adam named Eve, and God put them out of the garden away from the tree of life.

Genesis 16:1-5

How does this passage relate to Genesis 3 and marriage?

Abram—later Abraham—also listened to his wife and suffered consequences for doing what she suggested. He should have consulted God.

Then Sarai—later Sarah—blamed him for the trouble.

You might ask your group if they have ever listened to the wrong suggestion or advice and suffered consequences for it. What should they have done to begin with?

Ephesians 5:22-33

What does this passage teach about the husband's role?

Again, the husband is the head in marriage. His example is Christ as the head of the church.

Verse 25 gives a command to the husband to love his wife as Christ did the church and gave himself up for her—a husband giving up himself to love his wife for the purpose of a sanctified and clean wife. It seems that the husband is the one to lead his wife in knowing and obeying God's Word.

The husband is to love his wife as he does his own body—nourishing and cherishing.

Ask your group how this love of a husband for his wife is explained. What are the definitions of the word studies in the lesson?

love—"show love, demonstrate love"<sup>3</sup> "especially of love as based on evaluation and choice, a matter of will and action"<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>4</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 30.

nourishes—“of the body *nourish, feed* (figuratively in EP 5:29)”<sup>5</sup>; “to nurture”<sup>6</sup>

cherishes—“*to warm, hence to cherish*”<sup>7</sup>; “to foster with tender care”<sup>8</sup>

What do the cross-references on Day Four of the lesson add to this description of love?

John 3:16

God gave His Son to show how much He loves the world.  
This is like Ephesians 5:25.

Romans 5:8

God demonstrated / showed His love. The husband should do the same.

1 Peter 4:8 and 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Keep fervent in love (ESV—keep loving one another earnestly)—don’t let it become stagnant.  
Love covers sins. This should be practiced in all marriages.

Abound in love for one another. The love a husband has for his wife should grow.

Now ask how your group thinks this kind of love is lived out daily in a marriage.  
You might even ask if any of them have witnessed examples of this and what they learned.

What does Colossians 3:19 say about the husband? Also, ask about the word study.

This is another command from God to husbands about their wives.  
Love and don’t be embittered against them (ESV—harsh with them).

embittered / harsh—“to be harsh, angry”<sup>9</sup>; “irritate, or to make bitter”<sup>10</sup>; “make something turn sour”<sup>11</sup>

How can this command be lived out in a marriage?

What did Peter write to husbands in 1 Peter 3:7?

Live with your wives in an understanding way since she’s weaker in some sense.

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<sup>5</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 141.

<sup>6</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G1625.

<sup>7</sup> Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G2282.

<sup>8</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Eph 5:29.

<sup>9</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993), G4087.

<sup>10</sup> W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), 2:68.

<sup>11</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



The husband is to honor her as a fellow heir of grace.  
If the husband obeys, his prayers aren't hindered.

Now ask your group how they think this is to be lived out in a modern marriage.

What is the last part of a husband's role? Ask about the last cross-references in this lesson.

The husband is the provider in the marriage. This goes all the way back to Genesis.

Genesis 2:15; 3:17-19

Even before sin entered the world, God put Adam in the garden to cultivate / work and keep it. He gave him a job. But after sin entered, that job became providing food by the sweat of his face—toil / in pain.

Exodus 20:9

Six days of the week are for labor.

1 Timothy 5:8

Providing for his family is a priority.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy gave an example of working hard night and day as they presented the gospel to the Thessalonians.

Work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread (ESV—do their work quietly and earn their own living)—in the context of expecting others to provide for the one not working or not willing to work.

Again, ask how this responsibility of the husband can be carried out in a modern marriage.

To end your discussion, tell your group to look again at the list on the husband's role and ask for the main responsibilities.



**MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON  
LEADER GUIDE  
Lesson 2**

**Lesson emphasis:**

The wife's role

**REVIEW**

To begin your discussion, you can ask your group what they remember from Lesson 1 that God said about marriage in the beginning.

The husband is to  
leave his parents  
be joined / hold fast to his wife

The husband and wife become one flesh, naked, and not ashamed.

Then ask what they remember as the husband's role in marriage.

Head of his wife  
Love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her  
Don't be embittered against her (ESV—harsh with her)  
Live with her in an understanding way  
Honor her as a fellow heir of grace  
Provide for his family

**WIFE'S ROLE**

Tell your group to look at their list on the page at the end of the lesson, "The Wife's Role" as a visual aid to discuss this lesson.

Genesis 1:26; 2:7-25 and 1 Corinthians 11

What do these passages say about woman or wives?

Woman was created in God's image just as the man was.  
Man and woman were to rule over God's creatures before sin entered the world.

Woman was created for the man to be his suitable / fit helper.  
Even in Genesis 2 before sin, it seems that he had the headship.

God had Paul write the order of headship to the Corinthian church.  
God, Christ, Man, Wife

Genesis 3:16

What happened to the wife's role after sin entered the world?

God pronounced the consequences of sin for the woman.  
Greatly multiplied pain in childbirth  
Desire for / contrary to husband, but he'll rule over her

Now, ask what your group learned from the word study and cross-reference about "desire."

desire—"longing, craving"<sup>12</sup>; "a desire to dominate"<sup>13</sup>

Genesis 4:7

Sin's desire was to master / rule over Cain.

It seems that the consequence of sin is that wives will desire to rule over the husband, but the headship in marriage is given to him not her.

Ephesians 5:22-33

What does this passage teach about the wife's role in marriage? Also, discuss the definitions when the words come up in discussion.

She is to be subject to her husband as to the Lord.

is subject / submits—"to arrange under, to subordinate"<sup>14</sup>;  
"to subject oneself, place oneself in submission"<sup>15</sup>

This goes along with the other passages in this lesson.

When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, then his wife can easily be subject / submit to his headship in the marriage.

What does Colossians 3:18 add?

It is fitting in the Lord for the wife to be subject / submit to her husband.

fitting—"what is proper, one's duty"<sup>16</sup>; "right"<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), H8669.

<sup>13</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>14</sup> James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G5293.

<sup>15</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G5293.

<sup>16</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 55.

<sup>17</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), p. 626.

Lead your discussion back to Ephesians 5 and ask what verse 33 says the wife is to do.

She is to respect her husband.

If the husband is fulfilling his role in this passage, then it leads to his wife respecting him.

What do the cross-references in John and Philippians teach about headship and equality?

John 10:30-33 and 5:18

Jesus and the Father are one—they are equal.

Philippians 2:5-8 and John 5:30 and 1 Corinthians 11

Although Jesus is equal with the Father, there is an order to their relationship. The headship is the Father's, and Jesus submits to Him.

How can this describe the relationship between a husband and wife?

Equal but an order in the marriage—the order established by God.

At this point you should lead your group to discuss 1 Peter 2:18–3:6. And ask what they learned from this passage about the wife's role.

This passage tells the wife what to do if her husband is continually disobedient to / do not obey God's word. In other words, he's not a believer. He needs to be won—led to the Lord.

This tells women who don't have husbands like Ephesians 5 what to do.

Servants are to submit / be subject to unreasonable / unjust masters. The example is Jesus when He was reviled and suffering. Then 3:1 says that wives are to be submissive / subject in the same way as He was.

No sin

No deceit

No reviling in return

No threats

Entrust self to the righteous / just Judge

Jesus bore the sins of others so they might live and be healed of sin

Unsaved husbands can be won by the chaste and respectful behavior (ESV—respectful and pure conduct) of their wives.

chaste / pure—"pure from defilement, not contaminated"<sup>18</sup>; "innocent"<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996), 2:498.

<sup>19</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), GGK54.

A wife's adornment / adorning is mentioned. It's not merely to be external. (ESV does not use "merely.") The hidden person of the heart, a gentle and quiet spirit.

gentle—"mildness of disposition . . . It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all."<sup>20</sup>

quiet—"as possessing inward calm *quiet, tranquil, peaceful, at rest*"<sup>21</sup>;  
"undisturbed from without"<sup>22</sup>

And verse 6 says to do what is right / good. If a husband tells his wife to do something that is sin, she is to obey God in doing what is right / good and not sin. Compare this with Acts 5:29.

You might ask your group to summarize what they've discussed about the wife submitting to her husband and how it should apply to marriages today.

#### Titus 2:3-5

Ask what else they learned about the wife's role.

They are to love their husbands and children.  
Sensible / self-controlled  
Pure  
Workers / working at home  
Kind  
Subject / submissive to their husbands  
So God's word is not dishonored / reviled

How does 1 Timothy 5:14 relate to what Titus 2 says about a wife's role? Also ask about the word study.

This is a word to young widows; get married, bear children, and keep house / manage their households.

keep house / manage their households—"direct a household, manage one's home"<sup>23</sup>; "to govern or manage a household or the domestic affairs of a family"<sup>24</sup>

A wife's role is connected with her family and home.

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<sup>20</sup> James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001), G4239.

<sup>21</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 193.

<sup>22</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G2272.

<sup>23</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>24</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000), G3616.

Proverbs 31:10-31

What does this passage teach about the wife's role?

Trustworthy  
Does good for her husband  
Works to give food to her household  
Earns and buys  
Strong  
Gives to poor and needy  
Proper clothes for her house and herself  
Sells  
Dignity  
Wisdom  
Not idle

What is the result?

Blessed by her children  
Praised by her husband

What is the focus of the wife's role?

Family and household

Is she forbidden to work outside her home?

No, but her focus is her home.

You might end this discussion by asking your group, especially the wives, how this lesson and discussion have enlightened or encouraged or explained anything for them.





**MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON  
LEADER GUIDE  
Lesson 3**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Song of Solomon 1–4
- Communication

**REVIEW**

To begin your discussion, you might ask what your group remembers about marriage from the first two lessons.

God created marriage—He made woman from man because it was not good for him to be alone. God made her as a helper suitable / fit for him.

The husband is the head of the marriage, but his wife is an equal partner. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, live with her in an understanding way, and not be embittered against / harsh with her.

The wife is to submit to her husband as the head of the marriage unless the husband tells her to sin. She is to respect her husband as the head of her marriage.

**SONG OF SOLOMON 1**

Ask about the author and kind of literature.

Solomon wrote this song.

How does it compare with 1 Kings 4:29, 32?

Out of the more than 1,000 songs Solomon wrote, this one is called the Song of Songs.

Since your group has studied the first four chapters, ask who the main characters are.

The king

The woman—some might have read in commentaries that 6:13 says she's the Shulammitte

The daughters of Jerusalem sing the chorus

What repeated words are used to describe the king and the woman?

The king—he whom my soul loves, my beloved (ESV—beloved, love)

The woman—beautiful, my darling (ESV—beloved, love), my bride begins in chapter 4

What is the song about?

The love between the king and the woman he is about to marry

It tells how love expresses itself.

Then you might ask if they observed any segments in this song.

1:1–3:5 describes the courtship or, in today’s language, the dating time

3:6–5:1 describes the wedding

*NOTE: Some in your group might have read in commentaries that 5:2 through the end of the song tells about the marriage. If not, you can ask about that in the next lesson.*

#### Verses 1-4

How does this song begin?

Solomon’s song

Verses 2-3 are words from a woman about her love—the king.

This describes her desire for him and love.

The “we” in verse 4 indicates the maidens or daughters of Jerusalem sing the chorus.

They rejoice in the love between the king and the woman.

*NOTE: You might need to remind your group that this song was written in figurative language of the day. Some of this language is hard to understand and might sound very strange to modern people.*

#### Verses 5-7

Who speaks to whom and what is said?

This is the woman speaking to the daughters of Jerusalem, maybe her companions and maybe the maidens / virgins of verse 3.

She is tanned because of working in the sun. Evidently that wasn’t a good thing in those days and could cause people to look down on her.

Verse 7 is directed toward the man her soul loves. She longs for his companionship.

#### Verses 8-11

Now who speaks and what is said?

The man speaks to the most beautiful among women, my darling / love.

It seems that he tells her where to go pasture her flock, near him.

And he compliments her in verses 9-10.

The chorus in verse 11 seems to say that the women will add to her beauty.

As you continue your discussion, you should ask at relevant points what your group learned about communication between a man and a woman who love each other. And how that can be practiced in marriage.

### Verses 12-17

How does the conversation continue in this chapter?

She describes how he smells and is reminded of it.

Then he again comments on her beauty and adds a description of her eyes.  
She responds on his handsomeness / beauty.

Verses 16b-17 might describe their meeting place outside.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a possible chapter theme for Song of Solomon 1.

Song begins—love better than wine, beautiful and handsome (ESV—beautiful)

## **SONG OF SOLOMON 2**

How does this chapter continue the song?

It goes back and forth between the king and his beautiful bride to be.

What do they think about each other? What are the meanings of the descriptions?

More important than others

Very desirable

Lovesick / sick with love; thinking about the physical aspect of love

Don't arouse / stir up love before it's time to fulfill it—the marriage.

Verses 8-13 might indicate that he came for her and took her along. The winter had passed and spring was blossoming. This might be literal or a description of their growing love.

Verse 14 might describe them enjoying being alone with one another.

The little foxes might represent some small problems in their relationship that needed to be dealt with and put away.

Verse 16 indicates certainty. She was his and he was hers, even though everything might not have been worked out in their relationship. They were committed to each other.

Tell your group to look again at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like:  
Love blossoms and little foxes

### **SONG OF SOLOMON 3**

#### Verses 1-5

How does this part of the song continue describing the courtship or dating?

She thought about him constantly—him who her soul loved.  
These verses might describe her dreams.

But verse 5 repeats the warning about arousing / stirring up or awakening the physical aspect of love before the time of the marriage.

At this point you might ask those in your group what they think about dating and sex. How does God’s Word differ from what society says and does?

*NOTE: The next lesson will have more study about the physical part of marriage.*

#### Verses 6-11

What happens in these verses?

The king comes for his bride.  
This describes the wedding procession—it’s glory.

What is a possible theme for chapter 3?

Don’t arouse / stir up love until its time; the wedding procession

### **SONG OF SOLOMON 4**

What is this chapter describing?

He describes her body as it seems he undresses her and then “comes into his garden” with the sexual part of marriage.

Ask your group how these descriptions of her and the wedding night relate to marriage today. How should they relate? What can they learn from this communication between a husband and wife?

What is a theme for chapter 4?

Description of coming into his garden

## COMMUNICATION

Now direct your group to the cross references on Day Five of this lesson.

Ask what they learned that they can practice in marriage—and other relationships.

Proverbs 16:21, 23-24; 31:26

The wise person instructs his mouth (ESV—makes his speech judicious).  
Sweet speech, wisdom, and kindness

Psalm 141:3

Ask God to guard one's mouth.

Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6

Only speak uplifting words, not those designed to tear down.  
Give grace to one another in speech.

Proverbs 10:32; 15:1-4, 28; 4:24 and 12:18

Gentle / soft answers; the righteous think about how to answer  
No deceit or rash speaking

What does Proverbs say specifically about a wife, woman?

Proverbs 19:13b; 21:9; and 27:15-16

Contentions / quarreling from a wife are / is like a constant dripping.  
It's hard to live with a contentious woman / quarrelsome wife.  
One can't restrain a contentious woman / quarrelsome wife.

You might ask the women in your group to seriously consider if they have a tendency toward contentiousness / being quarrelsome. And then what the other passages say to do.

What do James and Matthew say about words and speech?

James 3:1-12

The tongue can do severe damage to people.  
It boasts and defiles / stains the whole body.  
It's evil and can't be tamed—except by God.  
It's full of deadly poison.

Blessing and cursing from the same mouth should not happen.

Matthew 12:33-37

The mouth speaks from the heart which is either good or evil—the heart of a true believer or an unbeliever.

People will give an account to God for every careless word they speak.

To end your discussion, ask your group how these statements from God can apply to their marriages and any relationship.

## MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON

### LESSON 4

### Leader Guide

#### Lesson emphasis

- Song of Solomon 5–8

#### REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about marriage and the roles of husband and wife.

God instituted marriage in the beginning. Man and woman were created in God's image and were to rule / have dominion over His creation. God made woman from man to be the helper suitable / fit for him.

After sin entered the world, the husband was to rule his wife. She's to submit to and respect her husband. And the husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. He is the provider for the family, and she is the manager of the household.

Then you can ask what your group remembers from Song of Solomon. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and the list on love in the lesson as visual aids.

This song is about the love between a man and his bride-to-be in the first chapters. It's full of figurative language as they describe one another.

Their love built until the marriage procession described in Song of Solomon 3:6-11. Then chapter 4 tells of the physical consummation of that love.

*NOTE: You might need to remind your group that Song of Solomon is either a song to be sung or poetry to be recited without music. It's filled with figurative language and therefore, parts of it are difficult to interpret.*

#### SONG OF SOLOMON 5

##### Verse 1

Who sang in this verse and about what? How does it relate to chapter 4?

The husband told of coming into his garden . . . drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers (ESV—be drunk with love)..

His description of the consummation of their love beginning in chapter 4 is sweet and fulfilling.

Verses 2-16

Who and what are these verses about?

The bride tells of maybe a dream.

*NOTE: Some think these verses are to be taken literally, but others hold to a figurative interpretation. And some think this describes the couple's first disagreement.*

It appears to describe her beloved husband coming to her for more love, but she was slow to respond, and therefore he was gone. Verse 7 might indicate this is not literal.

She looked to find him because she again described herself as lovesick / sick with love. She sought help from the other women in this song. And in verse 9 they ask about her beloved.

Then in verses 10-16 she describes him. This description is like his description of her in chapter 4. It describes his body, and then she said he is wholly / altogether desirable.

At this point, you might ask your group how Genesis 2:24-25 relates. This was a cross-reference on Day Five of the lesson.

From the beginning God said the husband and wife were to become one flesh. They were naked and not ashamed.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a theme for chapter 5.

Find my beloved; what kind of beloved / what is your beloved; sweet and desirable

**SONG OF SOLOMON 6**

How does the song continue in this chapter?

In verses 1-3, the bride still searches for her beloved. And verse 3 repeats that they belong to each other. Even if they had a disagreement, they still are committed to one another.

Verses 4-9 are the husband describing again his beautiful wife.  
Her beauty is compared to places of that time.

Verses 8-9 indicate again that she is far above all women to him.  
Even the queens and concubines praise her as beautiful.

*NOTE: Some think that the queens and concubines refer to the ones Solomon already had. But others think they are merely referring to the wife being superior to queens, etc.*

She is called to come back / return so they can gaze at / look upon her because of her beauty.

Ask what your group noted as a possible theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

My darling as lovely as Jerusalem



## SONG OF SOLOMON 7

What is this chapter about?

Again the husband is describing the beauty of his wife and making love to her or his desire for her.

Then she invites him to go into the country / fields to make love.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me

You might ask your group what they learn about the marriage relationship from Song of Solomon 5–7. If the bride was too slow in responding to her husband, how did he and she resolve the conflict?

Tell them to look at the list they made about love on Day Five of the lesson and ask what they learned.

Love—physical love—is better than wine. God designed the physical acts of love between a husband and wife to be desirable and pleasurable. But it's not to be awakened or aroused / stirred up until the proper time for it in marriage.

After marriage it is to be a strong part of the relationship. God says in Song of Solomon 5:1 that husband and wife are to drink and imbibe deeply of love (ESV—be drunk with love).

There are several places that speak of the one whom her soul loves. The physical and emotional love are connected.

At this point, you can also ask how the cross-reference in 1 Corinthians 7 compares with what they understand from the Song of Solomon.

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Verses 1 and 2 compare with the repeated statement in Song of Solomon about not arousing love until it pleases.

Then verses 3-5 say that neither husband nor wife is to deprive the other of the sexual intimacy they desire from one another.

This seems to be what caused the disagreement in Song of Solomon 6.

## SONG OF SOLOMON 8

Ask your group what this chapter is about and what they learned from it.

The first three verses seem to say that the wife would like to display her love for him even in public, like sisters could for brothers of that time.

Then verse 4 is one of the repeated statements in this song.

Verses 5-7 remind of the first time love was awakened in the marriage and the strong influence love has. It's strong as death; many waters can't quench it; and a man would give all he has for it.

The chorus then sang in verses 8 and 9 about a little sister they wanted to protect from premature sexual activity.

The bride had been a wall—kept herself pure until marriage. She gave herself to Solomon as his wife.

And the song ends with another of the repeated statements about hurrying / making haste to love.

Now tell your group to look again at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for chapter 8 and a theme for this whole song.

Maybe something like:

Song of Solomon 8 Love is strong, unquenchable

Song of Solomon I am my beloved's and he is mine;  
Don't awaken love until it pleases

To end your discussion, ask your group what they learned about marriage from studying the Song of Solomon. How can they apply what they learned?

## MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON

### LESSON 5

### Leader Guide

#### Lesson emphasis

Marriage, divorce, and remarriage

#### REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask what your group remembers about marriage from their study of lessons 1–4.

God established marriage in the beginning; the man and his wife were naked and not ashamed.

The husband is the head of the marriage and is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, giving himself for her.

The wife is to respect and submit to her husband’s headship.

Song of Solomon describes the sexual relationship in marriage.

Now tell your group to look at the chart at the end of the lesson “Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage” as a visual aid for the first part of your discussion.

*NOTE: Don’t lose time here as there is a lot to discuss in this lesson. The Leader Guide gives more information than your group will bring up. This is for your understanding, but you don’t need to ask about all of it. Just go with the main points that your group brings up.*

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 7

##### Verses 1-7

What do these verses teach about marriage?

The husband and the wife have control over their mate’s body. The context is sexual relations in marriage. The command is to stop depriving one another sexually, so the mate is not tempted to commit adultery.

This compares with the Song of Solomon.

The only exception, concession not command, is a period of time for prayer.

Then Paul said he’d like for all to be as he was—not married at that time.

*NOTE: Some think Paul had been married, but not when he wrote this.*

But all are not in the same condition: all have their gift from God, either single or married.

Verses 8-9

Who is addressed in these verses?

Unmarried and widows

The “unmarried” might refer to the divorced because virgins / betrothed are addressed separately in verse 25.

It’s good for them to remain single, as Paul. But if they don’t have / cannot exercise self-control regarding immorality, then they should marry.

How does this relate to modern societies?

Verses 10-11

Who do these verses address? What are the instructions?

This is to the married. In this context, it seems to be addressing the married believers. Paul said the Lord gave instructions about this. Jesus taught about this same subject.

The wife should not leave / separate from her husband. But if she does, then she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband.

The husband should not divorce his wife.

Verses 12-16

Who are these verses addressing?

“to the rest”

A brother, believer, married to an unbelieving wife

A sister, believer, married to an unbelieving husband

*NOTE: Not all marriages of this sort are a result of sin—a believer marrying an unbeliever. Many times it is the result of one spouse being saved after marriage.*

How does 2 Corinthians 6 relate to this situation?

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

This is a command to believers not to be bound / unequally yoked to unbelievers. There is no fellowship.

Lead the discussion back to 1 Corinthians 7. Compare verses 10 and 12.

Verse 10 is the Lord’s instruction. Jesus gave instruction about this.

Verse 12 is instruction from Paul.

Jesus didn’t mention this situation, but Paul gave the instruction here.

What are the instructions and why?

If an unbeliever consents to live with the believing spouse, then the believer is not to divorce, send away, the unbelieving husband or wife.

If an unbeliever is content to stay married to a believer, then that unbeliever is exposed to the things of God, shown what is a holy life, what is right and evil. The unbeliever is in constant relationship with one who is sacred to God, set apart to Him.

Their children are also exposed to holiness by the believer.

What is the instruction if the unbeliever leaves?

The believer is not under bondage / enslaved in such cases. The believer is free.

Let the unbeliever leave in peace, not conflict.

What question is presented to the believer in verse 16, and what is the answer?

How do you know whether you'll lead your unbelieving spouse to be saved or not?  
The answer is that the believer doesn't. Only the Lord knows.

Ask your group how these instructions about marriage relate to modern times and to them.

#### Verses 17-24

What is the main point of these verses?

Both verses 20 and 24 say to remain in the condition in which one was called.  
The context is primarily married or divorced.

Each person is to walk / live as the Lord has assigned to him or her, married or not.  
Believers need to learn how to live godly in whatever circumstances they are.

#### Verses 25-35

What do these verses say and about or to whom?

“Now concerning virgins / the betrothed . . . .”

It's good to remain unmarried because of present distress.

To be free from concern / anxiety

Concern / anxiety about how to please the Lord, not a spouse

Concern / anxiety about how to be holy

To promote what is appropriate, undistracted / undivided devotion to the Lord

Paul didn't write to restrain believers, but to show them that unmarried believers are more able to have undistracted / undivided devotion to the Lord than those who are married.

According to verse 28, if a virgin / betrothed marries, he or she has not sinned. But they will have trouble, and Paul was trying to spare them that by telling them to remain unmarried. He describes such in verses 29-35.

Who else is addressed in verses 27-28, and what are they told?

Bound to a wife, married

Don't seek to be released / free from that obligation of marriage.

Released / free from a wife, divorced or widowed

Don't seek a wife.

Don't look to be married again.

But if that one marries, he or she has not sinned.

### Verses 36-38

What and who are these verses about?

The NASB translates this difficult Greek passage as a man and his virgin daughter. In the culture of that time, the father was responsible for his daughter's marriage. If her father lets her marry, he does not sin, and he does well. But, if he decides to allow his daughter to remain single, he does better.

This is the same principle as verses 17-35.

*NOTE: In this context "act unbecomingly" refers to the father not allowing his daughter to marry when she wants to.*

The ESV translates the Greek as a man and his betrothed. If he married her or didn't marry her, it was acceptable. He needed to be firmly established in his own heart.

The key in both interpretations is the freedom in Christ to decide, and devotion to Christ in whatever decision is made.

### Verses 39-40

Who and what is the subject of these verses?

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives.

If he dies, she is free to remarry "in the Lord," marry a believer.

However, she would be happier, in Paul's opinion / judgment, if she stayed single.

Again, Paul's opinion / judgment is that marriage divides the interest, and singleness allows for undistracted / undivided devotion to the Lord, because the time is short. Paul's opinions are based on the Holy Spirit within him, giving advice to believers.

Based on 1 Corinthians 7, is divorce and remarriage ever allowed?

A believer is not to divorce a believing spouse.  
If the believer does, then he or she is to remain unmarried or be reconciled.  
If an unbeliever divorces a believing spouse, the believer is not under bondage.  
It seems that in this context it means he or she can remarry.

If one was saved after a divorce and then remarries, that one has not sinned, verses 8-9.

If a mate dies, then the spouse is free to marry again.

You might ask your group what God says about divorce in Malachi 2?

Malachi 2:13-16

The NASB says God hates divorce—dealing treacherously with the wife of one’s youth.

The ESV says that the man who does not love his wife but divorces her covers his garment with violence. Do not be faithless.

What did Jesus say in Matthew 19?

Matthew 19:1-11

Jesus quoted what Moses wrote in the Law when asked about divorce being lawful.

His reply was that divorce was permitted because of hardness of heart on the part of the one divorcing, but it wasn’t that way from the beginning—when God established marriage. Man is not to separate what God has joined.

If a man divorced his wife and either of them remarried, they committed adultery.

Then He gave an exception—immorality (ESV—sexual immorality).

immorality—“fornication, lewdness, or any sexual sin”<sup>25</sup>; “sexual sin of a general kind, that includes many different behaviors”<sup>26</sup>

The disciples understood the seriousness of marriage.

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<sup>25</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993), G4202.

<sup>26</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Ask what your group learned from the other cross-references on Day Three.

Romans 7:1-3

If a woman's husband dies, she's released from the law—she's free to remarry. But only in the Lord as 1 Corinthians 7:39 says.

If she is joined to / lives with another man while her husband is living, it's adultery.

Exodus 20:14, 17

One of the Ten Commandments is not to commit adultery.  
And another is not to covet another person's spouse.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled as Song of Solomon describes.  
But God will judge fornicators / the sexually immoral and adulterers.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Having sex with a prostitute, fornication, is immorality. Don't become one flesh with a prostitute but flee. The immoral man / sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

At this point, ask what your group learned from the references on Days Four and Five of this lesson. At any point, let them talk about how these things relate to life today, especially their lives and the lives of other believers.

Romans 1:16-32

This is another list of sins that deserve God's wrath. Men exchange God's glory and truth for corruption and lies. They worship something other than Him. Therefore, He gives them over to lustful passions such as homosexual sins. They end up with a depraved / debased mind worthy / deserving of death.

Revelation 21:3-8

The abominable / detestable and immoral (ESV—sexually immoral) people end up in the lake of fire, the second death.

Ephesians 5:3-5

Immorality is not fitting among saints, believers. No immoral (ESV—sexually immoral) person has an inheritance in Christ's and God's kingdom—that person is not a believer.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

These verses give hope to those who participated in the sins discussed in this lesson. Some of the believers at Corinth had, but when saved they were cleansed.

What did Jesus say about adultery in Matthew 5:27-32?

Jesus said that looking continually at a woman with lust / lustful intent equals adultery in the heart. He should get rid of whatever is causing the sin, or it will lead him to hell.



How does Job compare with Matthew 5?

Job 31:1, 9-12

Job made a covenant with his eyes so that he wouldn't do what Matthew 5 says.

He wouldn't gaze, be looking at a woman to lust for her.

Giving in to enticement by a woman leads to iniquity, a fire that consumes.

What else has God said about resisting temptation?

1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-15

Temptation is common to all men, but God gives believers a way of escape to be able to endure temptation.

God doesn't tempt men to sin. One's own lust / desire brings temptations which can lead to sin and death.

### **PROVERBS**

Now refer your group to the last chart at the end of this lesson "Strange Woman / Adulteress and Man Lacking Sense" as a visual aid to discuss the Proverbs passages

Ask your group what they noted on their lists of the adulteress and the man.

And ask how what they learned can help them understand more about the temptation toward adultery and what they can know to prevent it.

The adulteress entices and seduces with her looks and her bold words. She's cunning / wily and says there is no sin in what she does.

She is a contrast with the wife in Song of Solomon.

The unsuspecting man who has no understanding from God can easily be led into sin by her. Her snare will cost him his life.

To end your discussion, ask about the last reference in the lesson.

What does one do if he or she has committed any of the sins in the lesson?

1 John 1:9

Confess your sin. God forgives and cleanses.

If there is time, ask your group what their take-away is from this lesson.



**MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON**  
**LESSON 6**  
**Leader Guide**

**Lesson emphasis:**

- Children
- Finances

**REVIEW**

To begin this discussion, you can ask what your group remembers about marriage from their study of Lessons 1–5.

God established marriage in the beginning; the man and his wife were naked and not ashamed.

The husband is the head of the marriage and is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, giving himself for her.

The wife is to respect and submit to her husband’s headship.

Song of Solomon describes the sexual relationship in marriage.

God hates divorce, and there are only two exceptions where it is permissible according to God’s Word:

Jesus said except for immorality.

Paul wrote that if the unbeliever leaves, the believers is not under bondage.

Sexual sins are abominations to God and sins against a person’s body. They lead to death unless that one is saved. When a believer confesses sin, God forgives and cleanses.

**CHILDREN**

Tell your group to look at the page from the end of the lesson “Instructions Regarding Children” as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Then ask what they learned from Deuteronomy 6 and 7 about raising children.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20–25;7:1-3

God commanded the people of Israel to diligently teach His Word to their children.

Verses 6:7-8 seem to indicate that parents are to talk about God’s Word to their children all the time—whenever there is opportunity throughout the day’s activities.

Beginning in verse 20, it says the people were to have answers for the questions their children might ask about God's Word and commandments.

The commands in 7:3 are about who the children should marry—not unbelievers.

At this point, you might ask your group how these instructions and commands from God are to be lived out by parents today. Give time for them to discuss.

What does Ephesians 6 add? Ask how it relates to raising children today.

Ephesians 6:1-4

The first instruction or command is to the children. Obey your parents; honor them. The promise connected with the command is for things to go well and long life.

The next one addressed is the father—maybe also applying to the mother.

Don't provoke children to anger.

Bring them up in discipline and instruction of the Lord.

This relates to what Deuteronomy 6 says.

Now ask what your group learned from the word study in Ephesians 6:4.

discipline—"to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior"<sup>27</sup>; "denotes 'the training of a child, including instruction;' hence, 'discipline, correction,' 'chastening,'"<sup>28</sup>

What do the cross-references about discipline add?

Hebrews 12:5-11

A father is to discipline his son because he loves him, just as the heavenly Father does His children. For a short time, the discipline is sorrowful, but it produces righteousness in joy and peace. And the child respects the father when discipline is correctly applied.

This teaches, trains for obedience to the heavenly Father.

Proverbs 19:18 and 22:15

Foolishness is in a child's heart, but discipline removes / drives it far from him. There is hope for him to live a fruitful life.

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<sup>27</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), p. 413.

<sup>28</sup> W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), p. 97.

Proverbs 29:17

A son will give comfort / rest and delight the soul / heart of parents who correct / discipline him.

Proverbs 23:13-14; 29:15; and 13:24

These verses are about using a rod of correction.

It's to be applied diligently by loving parents when children need it.

Children who are not disciplined bring shame to their mothers.

How does Colossians 3 relate to Ephesians 6:4? Also, ask about the word study.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers are not to exasperate / provoke their children so they don't lose heart.

exasperate / provoke—"make resentful, to stir up embitterment"<sup>29</sup>;  
"arouse, excite, kindle; in a bad sense make resentful, irritate, rouse to anger"<sup>30</sup>

Now ask your group what instructions and principles they've learned for their own parenting habits. Give time for them to discuss how this discussion relates to them.

What is the biblical principle in Proverbs 22:6? How can it be put into practice?

Child-training produces habits for life.  
Train children in God's Word.

## FINANCES

Lead your group to discuss the passages about finances.

Matthew 6:19-34

Ask what they learned about treasures or wealth and worry / anxiety.

Store / lay up treasures in heaven instead of earth.  
A person's heart is with his treasure.  
One cannot serve God and wealth / money.

Don't worry / be anxious.  
It can't add to life.  
God takes care of His creation and people are the most valuable.  
He provides clothes, food, and drink.

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<sup>29</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>30</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 171.

Tomorrow takes care of / will be anxious for itself.

Seek God's kingdom and righteousness first.  
He'll add what is needed for living.

How does the references in Philippians 4 relate to Matthew 6?

Philippians 4:6-7, 11-12, 14-19

Believers can ask God for whatever they need instead of being anxious about things.

Paul wrote that he had learned to be content with humble means / being brought low as well as having abundance. He put God's kingdom first.

The Philippian church had shared with Paul to meet some of his needs.  
He knew the truth of what Jesus said in Matthew 6—God supplies needs.

How are these principles to be practiced in daily living among believers? Give your group time to share with one another.

Then ask what they learned from the references in Proverbs.

Don't be surety / put up security or give a pledge for someone else.

Diligence, not neglect, makes rich. But illicit profit brings trouble.  
The sluggard or lazy person comes to poverty.

A borrower becomes slave to the lender.

Wealth has wings, so one should not weary himself / toil to gain /acquire it.

Give to the poor.

What lessons for life are in these principles?

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Ask your group what they learned from studying this passage.

The one who loves money is not satisfied with it. It's vanity—empty.

A working man / laborer sleeps pleasantly with little or much food.  
But a rich man with a full stomach has trouble sleeping.  
Some hoard / keep riches to their own hurt. When it's lost, they have nothing.  
When people die, they take nothing with them.

So one should enjoy life and whatever else God has given.  
God will keep him occupied with a glad heart (ESV—with joy in his heart). It's like Paul had learned to be content.

1 Timothy 6:8-10, 17-19

Ask how these verses relate to the principles in Ecclesiastes.

One should be content with food and covering / clothing like Jesus said in Matthew 6.

Loving money and wanting to get rich lead men to temptation, evil, snares, ruin and destruction, and grief / pangs. This can lead some to wander away from the faith because they were not truly saved to begin with.

Those whom God has given riches are to hope in Him not the riches, and they're to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share. They're storing up treasures for the future and treasures in heaven as Jesus said.

What instructions did Paul write in Romans 13?

Romans 13:6-8

Pay taxes.

It's not good to owe anyone. Proverbs said the borrower is slave to the lender.

Love fulfills the law.

Now ask your group about applying their insights on biblical finances. How do they do what God has said? How do their financial insights relate to marriage?

Giving

Tell them to look at the worksheets on 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 at the end of this lesson and ask what they learned about giving.

Even those who didn't have much money begged to help support the saints (ESV—take part in the relief of the saints).

Giving is a gracious work / act of grace.

Giving produces equality / fairness among believers. One's abundance supplies another's need.

The Corinthians had a readiness and zeal to support other believers.

One who sows sparingly reaps sparingly.

Each is to give from his heart, not grudgingly / reluctantly or under compulsion.

God loves a cheerful giver.

He is the supplier of all.

Giving produces thanksgiving to God and prayers for the givers.

What is the attitude believers are to have about giving? What does it prove?

Joy and grace toward one another show love.

Jesus became poor for others.

You might end this discussion by asking your group, “How do the general principles on giving from 2 Corinthians apply to marriage?”