

life group study guide

April 10, 2016

GOING ALL THE WAY: Setting Yourself Up for Success in Marriage/Courtship – Song of Solomon 2:8 – 3:5

Big Idea: A successful marriage starts with a sacrificial individual.

- Don't spend your time looking outside for that person, but rather look at yourself.
- In order to be successful in the future, we have to start by being sacrificial in the present.
- Define expectations, hopes and dreams. Work toward being the person to accomplish those. Half-hearted efforts lead to half-hearted dreams! We must go all the way now to make it all the way then.
- Vines have tender grapes. The foxes nibble on the grapes and eat the vine, which would kill the entire vine. Watch out for the little things that will destroy your relationship! It starts with the little things in you.

"The voice of my beloved." Song of Solomon 2:8

"I will hear what the Lord will speak." Psalm 85:8

"This is My beloved Son...hear Him." Matthew 17:5

(All Scripture passages are from the Song of Solomon, unless otherwise noted.)

Are you regularly taking time to listen to Christ's voice? When was the last time you were conscious that He was speaking to you through His Word, and what did He say? Do you find it difficult to get a quiet heart so you can listen to the Lord? What other "voices" and noises keep you from hearing His voice? How can you turn them off – either literally or figuratively?

"Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills." (2:8) What are some "mountains and hills" in your life that are difficult or impossible for you to scale, but that Christ is easily able to overcome?

The beloved says his bride is "like a lily among thorns". (2:2) How can your life make a difference and reflect Christ's beauty to the "thorns" that surround you?

What do you see in this passage that makes you long for heaven?

Take time to express your admiration for Christ. What do you love and appreciate about Him? Tell Him!

"My beloved spoke, and said to me: Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past." (2:10-11)

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Is the bridegroom calling you to “rise up and come away” from some “winter” in your life? How might you experience His supernatural power in a whole new way if you were to respond to His call?

“Let me see your face, let me hear your voice.” (2:14) Does your schedule keep you from spending quality time with Jesus? What can you re-arrange or eliminate?

Does your relationship with the Lord include two-way communication?

“The voice of my beloved.” (2:8) Are you taking time to listen to Him speak through His Word? When you hear, how do you respond?

“Let me hear your voice.” (2:14) Do you often speak to the Lord in prayer? If you are married, are you listening and speaking to your mate?

“My beloved spoke, and said to me: Rise up, my love...and come away.” (2:10) Is there an area where you are hesitant or reluctant to respond to Christ’s call in your life? Something He is asking you to do that feels too difficult or risky? An area of the unknown where He wants you to step out and trust Him to enable you?

“Catch us the little foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines.” (2:15) What are some of the “little foxes” that threaten your relationship with the Lord? How can you deal with them?

“I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him.” (3:1) Is there a breach or barrier in your intimacy with Christ? Have you lost the sense of His presence you once had in your life? What steps have you taken to seek Him? Do you ever feel that you are seeking Christ, but you can’t find Him? What do you think keeps you from finding Him?

When was the last time you were desperate for Christ? Do you have a seeking heart, or are you content with where you are with Jesus? How badly do you want Him? How could you cultivate a greater longing for intimacy with Him?

“I will rise now...I will seek the one I love.” (3:2) What are some steps you could take to experience restored fellowship with Jesus?

“I said, Have you seen the one I love?” (3:3) What is the difference between asking others to help you get closer to Christ and looking to them to restore your relationship with Him? How can you get past them and get to your Beloved?

“I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go.” (Song of Solomon 3:4)
Have you found Him? If not, keep on seeking! Don’t be content until you can say, “I have found the one I love.” When you have found Him, purpose to hold Him close and not let Him go!

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