

# Small Group Guide

Week of January 21th, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Song of Solomon 2:8-17



## Icebreaker



- If you could only text using emojis on a first date, how do you think it would go?
- If you had to describe your love life using only a movie or TV show title, what would it be?



## Discussion



- Dating can get stale once the butterflies fade. How do you keep the spark alive in a relationship long-term?
- How have you seen good or poor communication impact your relationships? What are some ways we can communicate with more clarity, honesty and kindness?
- Conflict is inevitable in relationships. What are some healthy ways to deal with conflict? How can we view conflict as "us against the problem" instead of "me against you"?
- Be honest-have you fallen into any worldly relationship patterns? How can we support each other in following God's ways?
- How can we support singles to live godly lives and not feel pressured to date for the wrong reasons?
- Trust is crucial in relationships, but can be difficult. What are some practical ways to build greater trust? How can we help restore trust if it's been broken?
- Read Song of Solomon 2:16. How does this verse portray intimacy in dating and marriage? What boundaries can help us save intimacy for the right context?



## Thought for the Group



In the Song of Solomon, we see a beautiful picture of what a godly relationship can look like. This couple models excitement, passion, and delight in one another, while also communicating openly and dealing with conflict in a healthy way.

Their love is life-giving; they spur one another on spiritually and emotionally. We too can pursue relationships that honor Christ by applying these principles:

- Make time to fan the flames of excitement and enjoy each other's company. Don't let your love grow cold!
- Communicate clearly, honestly and kindly. Share your heart, listen well, and build intimacy.
- When conflict comes, see it as you both versus the problem. Don't attack each other!
- Date with purpose and discernment. Don't just pass time, but look for a true partner.
- Wait for intimacy until committed forever. Don't buy worldly lies about sex outside of marriage.
- If married, keep dating your spouse! Remain determined in nourishing your love.

By keeping Christ at the center, we can develop healthy, thriving relationships that reflect our Creator's design. Let's encourage each other in living out these truths!



## Next Steps



- Identify Growth Areas - Ask God to reveal 2-3 specific areas where you can grow in fostering healthier relationships. Maybe it's better communication, avoiding worldly attitudes about intimacy, or learning to handle conflict well.
- Seek Accountability - Find 1-2 people who can check in on your goals and keep you accountable. Share what you're working on and ask them to regularly follow up. We all need supportive community to help us stick to relationship growth goals. Don't try to go it alone!