

Small Group Guide

Week of January 7th, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Song of Solomon 1:1-4, 9-15



Icebreaker



- What's the worst date you've ever been on?
- If money was no object, what would be your dream date night with your spouse or significant other?



Discussion



- The sermon talked about how a godly man needs Christ-like character. In your life, who models that well? Who doesn't get it quite right?
- Why is it so important for your friends and family to approve of who you're dating? Tell about a time you ignored warnings from friends - how'd that go?
- Read Song of Solomon 1:9-10. How can you get better at using words to make your partner feel treasured? How does it impact you when they use words to express your worth?
- The sermon said a godly man brings peace. How can we get better at being chill, comforting presences?
- What did you think about the idea of seeing someone face-to-face, not as a commodity? How does our culture mess that up sometimes?
- Ladies - how can we nicely encourage the guys in our lives to step it up as godly men?
- Dudes - what's one practical thing you want to work on to be a more godly man? How can the group support you?



Thought for the Group



In Song of Solomon, we get a beautiful picture of what a godly romantic relationship can look like.

The passage opens with the woman singing praises about her beloved. She is drawn to his character, mesmerized by his reputation, and longs to be near him.

In response, the man expresses his affection through words that affirm her value and dignity. He takes care to focus on her face, looking deeply into her eyes. His compliments are gentle and pure. The sermon reminded us that in our own strength, we will never measure up to this standard. We need Christ in us transforming us. It's not about trying harder, but fully relying on God's power at work in our lives.

As men, we must reject the cultural trends that teach us to pursue only physical intimacy. God longs for us to pursue whole and holy relationships. And women have a powerful role to play by encouraging the men in their lives. Together we can support one another in becoming the people God created us to be.

Our relationships should be sources of life, joy and purpose. May we build each other up, not tear each other down. By keeping Christ at the center, we can reflect the beauty of the gospel to the world around us.



Next Steps



- Examine your media intake this week - TV, movies, music, etc. Does it promote seeing women as objects? Make a commitment to cut out entertainment that fuels any unhealthy perspectives you may have.
- Make a commitment to encourage the men in your life in one area of being a godly man this week. Look for things they are doing well and let them know you appreciate them.