

BUZZ GROUPS: One theological scholar writes: “the name of God does not appear in this Song, neither is the latter even mentioned in the New Testament. This book has no special religious significance”. Why do you think this love poem is in the Bible? Discuss in small groups and give feedback centrally.

1. Positive Affirmation and Wisdom about the Body

- The body is *Praiseworthy* (see 4:1-7, 5:10-16)
- The body is not *Perfect* (see 1:5-6)
- The body is *Particular* (see 7:2-4)

BUZZ GROUPS:

Do you have the right attitude to your body – and the body of others?
Is there an attitude you need to repent of?
Is there an attitude where you need God’s healing hand?

2. Positive Affirmation and Wisdom about Gender

- The *Equality* of Men and Women (see 1:15-16)
“My lover is mine and I am his” (2:16, 6:3, 7:10)
“Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm” (8:6a)
- The *Difference* between Men and Women (Compare 3:1-5 with 4:1-7, 7:1-9)
- The *Peace* between Men and Women (See 4:7 and 6:13)

BUZZ GROUPS:

Do you have the right attitude to the opposite sex?
Is there an attitude you need to repent of?
Is there an attitude where you need God’s healing hand?

3. Positive Affirmation and Wisdom about Sex

- Sex is for *Procreation* (See 3:4)
- Sex is for *Pleasure* (See 4:16-5:1)

- Sex is for a *Particular Setting*
 - Monogamous, heterosexual and exclusive
“My lover is mine and I am his” (2:16, 6:3, 7:10)
 - After considerable forethought
“Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires” (2:7, 3:5, 8:4)
 - Within marriage
Bride – (4:8,9,10,11,12,5:1)
Sex - anticipated versus actual (compare 7:7-8 with 4:16-5:1)

Beloved ¹⁶ Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

Lover ¹ I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. (4:16-5:1)

BUZZ GROUPS and MINISTRY TIME:

Do you have the right attitude to sex?

Is there an attitude you need to repent of?

Is there an attitude where you need God's healing hand?

Then, remaining in your small buzz group, pray for each other in response to what you have discussed during the session.

Living a Wise Life

Six sessions applying Old Testament Wisdom Literature to 21st Century Living

Week 4: Wisdom about Sex and Sexuality (*Song of Songs*)

Introduction:

¹ Solomon's Song of Songs.

Beloved ² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your love is more delightful than wine. ³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you! ⁴ Take me away with you— let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Friends We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.

Beloved How right they are to adore you! ⁵Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. ⁶ Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected. ⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

Friends ⁸ If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.

Lover ⁹ I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh. ¹⁰ Your cheeks are beautiful with ear-rings, your neck with strings of jewels. ¹¹ We will make you ear-rings of gold, studded with silver.

Beloved ¹² While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. ¹³ My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts. ¹⁴ My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.

Lover ¹⁵ How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

Beloved ¹⁶ How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant.

Lover ¹⁷ The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.
(Song of Songs 1:1-17)