



The Song of Solomon is a beautiful book of the Bible that, sadly, is often overlooked by preachers and teachers for many reasons. For some, they believe the language is too explicit; others believe that because the name of God is never once uttered, it's a useless text to walk through.

I would, however, challenge these views on the Song of Solomon with reasons of my own. First, the language used may be explicit, but it is not objectifying, crude, or immodest. The Song of Solomon is a love story; a Hebraic poem about a man and a woman pursuing one another passionately in the context of marriage.

Secondly, while the name of God is not mentioned in the Song of Solomon, it is written in a time where the culture surrounding this couple is diving into the desires of sexual sin. This couple, however, teaches us about covenant faithfulness. Covenant faithfulness is also best expressed and seen through Christ's pursuit of His bride, the church.

Thirdly, the Song of Solomon teaches us not only about the covenant of marriage and faithfulness, but the gift of sex and romance. The truth is that the statistics are jarring; from sexual assault to porn addiction to divorce rates, numbers, tragically, continue to grow and in large part because of sin's distortion of how we view marriage, sex, and one another. If we are to have a firm understanding of relationships and intimacy, then we must first have a firm understanding of what God originally intended and how we have been redeemed by the person and work of Jesus Christ. Further, I would add, that the work of Christ redeems sinners whether married or not. Marriage is not the end goal, sufficiency in Christ and His work of redemption is.

Finally, the Song of Solomon is part of the biblical canon of scripture. The Apostle Paul writes that "all scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.." (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, it is not simply a love story that we are examining, but the inspired Word of God through the Holy Spirit. This means we can expect everything from wisdom and insight to conviction and transformation.

I am looking forward to this new study and series and I pray that as we walk through this wonderful book, we would be challenged and convicted by the Holy Spirit; to confess and repent of sin; and to fix our eyes upon the one who is and remains faithful, Jesus Christ.

Warmly,

Pastor Marco

# SONG OF SOLOMON | DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

### What Is A Missional Community?

Missional Communities are small gatherings of people that meet weekly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears.

Missional Communities (MCs) serve as the main vehicle of discipleship, care, and mission at Storehouse Community Church and we believe that the mission of MCs is to be a family of disciples on mission for the glory of God.

Each MC is unique and shaped by the people who attend and the city they meet in. And at the heart of each MC is a desire to gather as family and friends, grow in our relationship with Jesus, and go into our cities on mission.

### Why Should I Join A Missional Community?

The Bible teaches us that God is relational, personal, and invested which, in turn, means that we are created for friendship and community. MCs are more than a weekly event, but a time to grow and cultivate relationship with God and others.

### Where Do Missional Communities Meet?

MCs are strategically planted throughout McAllen and its surrounding cities in an effort to engage our city and community. Whether meeting at a home, local coffee shop, or college campus, we desire to see every aspect of our cities blessed by God's people.

### How Do I Get Connected?

There are two ways that you can get connected. You can visit our Connect desk on Sunday and our volunteers will help you through the process or you can visit [storehousemcallen.com/community](https://storehousemcallen.com/community) to learn more and sign up!

## SONG OF SOLOMON | DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. [Sex in a Broken World: How Christ Redeems What Sin Distorts by Paul David Tripp](#)

“Sexuality is a fundamental part of what it means to be human--part of God's beautiful design when he created all things. And yet, sex in our world today looks nothing like the way that God intended it to be. Sexual brokenness surrounds us and, in one way or another, affects us all.

This sexual brokenness reveals our deep need for redemption--something quick fixes, mere behavior modification, or a set of rules can't provide. Honest and direct yet kind and caring, this book points us to the only place we can find help for sexual brokenness--the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. Only this grace offers hope for a life of freedom, purity, and joy as God intended.”

2. [Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healings for Victims of Sexual Assault by Justin Holcomb](#)

“The statistics are jarring. One in four women and one in six men are or will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetime. But as sobering as the statistics are, they don't begin to speak to the darkness and grief experienced by these victims. Because sexual assault causes physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual pain, victims need clear help, hope, and healing. In *Rid of My Disgrace*, a couple experienced in counseling victims of sexual assault explains how the grace of God can heal the broken and restore the disgraced.”

3. [The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex, and Redemption by Matt Chandler](#)

“Using the Song of Solomon, Chandler walks through the book in a way that blends styles from a commentary, devotional, and traditional book on dating and marriage. Surprisingly, what one is left with is an imminently readable, biblically faithful, and practical work to encourage both singles and married couples.”

4. [7 Myths About Singleness by Sam Allberry](#)

“This book responds to 7 common misconceptions about singleness, helping everyone married and unmarried alike value the unique opportunities that singleness affords to contribute to the flourishing of the church as a whole.”

## SONG OF SOLOMON | DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

### IMPORTANT DATES | FALL 2019

#### September 2019

Family Gathering | Sunday, September 29th | 12:30 p.m - 2:00 p.m. | Old Church Winery

Family Gatherings are held twice a year and are for our covenant members. This is where we gather, usually after service, for a time of fellowship over a good meal and where we pray over and affirm new members to Storehouse McAllen.

#### October 2019

New Visitors Lunch | Sunday, October 20th | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Roosevelt's at 7

This fall, we're having a new visitors lunch at a local restaurant (Roosevelt's) where we'd love to connect with guests and newcomers who are looking to learn a little more about who we are and how to possibly get connected.

Trunk or Treat | Saturday, October 27th | Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat is an annual event held at the Old Church Winery where we provide a variety of decorated trunks and is a wonderful time to serve our neighborhood and provide families and their children a safe alternative to trick or treating for some good candy!

#### December 2019

Christmas Eve Service | Tuesday, December 24th 2019 | Old Church Winery

Our annual Christmas Eve service is where we rejoice and remember the birth of our King Jesus; where God became a man and died for sinners.



## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week One | Song of Songs 1:1-2:7 | Anticipation

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

::How does American culture at large reinforce the idea of sex as god?

::How do relationships and marriage conform to the truth of the gospel, community, and mission?

::How does having a redeemed view of sex as a gift from God refute the distortions of sex as god or gross?

::God's word is so powerful that He can literally create by speaking (2 Corinthians 4:6). Words are very powerful and in friendships and relationships, we find ourselves in a unique position where we can speak gospel truths and encouragement to one another. What do you think is struggle behind speaking gospel truths? Why do we (sometimes often) neglect these opportunities? What can we do differently today?

::The writer of Song of Solomon urges "patience first, then passion." How does that encouragement work in conjunction with what James writes in James 1:12-15?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

::Romans 5:20 says, "but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more." How can you learn from God's view of gracious love? How can you increase the grace in your home?

::Define godly character. See 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Could you say that you are that man?

::Do you create a culture of conversation (talking with your spouse about things freely) or neglect that? Why is that (i.e. insecurity, discomfort, passivity, etc.)?

### DISCUSSION (WOMEN)

::What are some insecurities that you face and how does redemption speak into them?

::In what ways can someone "awaken love before it's time"? Think physically, sexually, and emotionally. In what specific ways do you need to apply this principle in your own personal life?

::Why is being only physically attracted to someone else dangerous? What are some reasons of why having a relationship built only on physical attraction will eventually decline?



## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Two | Song of Songs 2:8-3:5 | Love Found, Lost, and Found

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

::What is the difference between courting and dating? How do you know which is which?

::Why is dating tricky?

::Often, in relationships (especially leading toward marriage) we want to know more about a person's past in order to see how they affect him or her today. What are some ways or questions that one can ask that would bear fruitful discussion?

::There are dangers (characterized by foxes) that must be addressed before the man and woman can come together. What are some "foxes" that might threaten a relationship?

::Why is friendship in marriage important? What should it look like?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

::Some may ask, "where is the line?" in dating or courtship. The motive tends to be, "how much can we sin before getting caught." How can we guard our hearts and protect others?

::What steps do you believe God is asking you to take to cultivate a deeper friendship with your spouse? If single, what is God teaching you about dating, marriage, or relationship?

::Often we hear that men are to be "pastor, provider, and protector." Which area do you find is a strength? Which is a struggle? Why?

### DISCUSSION (WOMEN)

::What "foxes" do you tend to ignore through silence or neglect?

::What is an area of your relationships (married or not) that you tend to guard out of a lack of trust in God? How does the gospel speak into this?

::How are you guarding your heart to protect yourself from lies? What is hard about guarding your heart? Where have you seen fruit because of guarding your heart?



# ASKING FOR A FRIEND

## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Three | Song of Songs 3:6-5:1 | Becoming One

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

::Where do most people get their perception of what sex should be?

::What are some reasons to have some other people in your life with whom you can talk about intimate details of your sex life? Why not just keep it between you and your spouse?

::What is the significance of marriage being a covenant and not a contract?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

::There's a balance between being an initiator, but not overbearing. How can this be achieved? What tends to be a struggle for you (ex. passivity, insecurity, etc.)?

::Sex is a gift from God that is to be enjoyed for multiple reasons. How do you view sex in your marriage (i.e. it is a weapon, gift, indifferent, unimportant, etc.)?

### DISCUSSION (WOMEN)

::One of the root sins that plagues men is passivity. What might the root sin for women be?

::Sex is a gift from God that is to be enjoyed for multiple reasons. How do you view sex in your marriage (i.e. it is a weapon, gift, indifferent, unimportant, etc.)?



## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Four | Song of Songs 5:2-6:3 | Selfish Lovers

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

::How do you handle conflict?

::Read Matthew 7:3-5. How does Jesus exhort us to take responsibility for our contribution to conflict?

::Where do you lack understanding and patience in your own progressive sanctification?

::You cannot control your spouse, but you can control yourself. Why or what is the temptation to try to change your spouse and ignore changing yourself first?

::What is the difference between responding and reacting?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

::In conflict: is there something you desire so much that you're willing to hurt others to get it?

::Are you a natural "law speaker"? Do you bring judgment easily rather than you bring grace? Why?

::Are you a natural "grace giver"? Do you extend grace easily rather than you speak the truth? Why?

::What are some expectations that you have for your significant other that sometimes cause conflict? Does she know them?

### DISCUSSION (WOMEN)

::What are you saying about who God is when you won't back down? As you have grown in Christ, what softens you?

::Are you a natural "law speaker"? Do you bring judgment easily rather than you bring grace? Why?

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# ASKING FOR A FRIEND

## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Five | Song of Songs 6:4-7:9 | Husbands and Wives

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

:::What makes it so difficult owning our responsibility in a conflict? Why are sincere, or “actual” apologies so difficult?

:::Over time in a relationship, we can start to take our significant other’s strengths for granted and blow their weaknesses out of proportion. Why does that happen?

:::Is there a desire to further correct a person or rehash something again to make sure “they get it” after a person is repentant for their sin and when they’re owning their part?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

:::What strengths are in your wife?

:::What do you need to own? Where might you seek forgiveness? Where have you lacked grace?

:::Where do you see your spouse excelling, and where you do spot strength and dignity in those things?

### DISCUSSION (WOMEN)

:::What strengths are in your husband?

:::What do you need to own? Where might you seek forgiveness? Where have you lacked grace?

:::Where do you see your spouse excelling, and where you do spot strength and dignity in those things?



## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Six | Song of Songs 7:9-8:4 | Getting Away Together

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

:::When it comes to physical attraction or character, how does praise help edify one another? Why is it important?

:::Why is time away/a sabbath important for our relationship with God? One another? What keeps us from prioritizing this?

:::Insecurity or arrogance are rooted in pride. How does that affect how we view marriage? How does that affect our marriages?

:::How do couples end up becoming really good roommates? How can couples avoid becoming roommates?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

:::The beauty of the sexual relationship displayed in this poem can painfully press on all of us, single or married, because of our own broken sexuality. Is/has sex been an idol for you? Insecurity? Shame? Arrogance? How does the gospel speak into this matter?

:::One of the greatest enemies of a marriage is laziness. How do you guard against that (i.e. date nights, getaways, coffee dates, etc.)? What keeps you from prioritizing things like this? How can rhythms like these be developed if you're not married?

:::What are small, practical ways that men can be more romantic with women?

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# ASKING FOR A FRIEND

## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Week Seven | Song of Songs 8:4-14 | The Strength of Love

### DISCUSSION (GENERAL)

::Do you get the sense that most people feel as though they are owed a marriage? An easy marriage? A certain way that a spouse is supposed to be? If so, where does that idea come from? What are some damaging implications of having those preconceived notions?

### DISCUSSION (MEN)

::What temptation do you have to wound your spouse if you feel like you're "losing" or things aren't the way they ought to be (i.e. anger, words, manipulation, withholding sex, past sins, etc.)?

::What does repentance look like for you in this area?

::How does the gospel speak into this area of your life?

::What can you do differently today/this week?

::Read and discuss Titus 2:2.

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::Read and discuss Titus 2:3-5