



Sermon Discussion Guide

April 6, 2025 | Song of Songs 5:2 - 6:13 | Jerrod

SUMMARY

Our world (and our own hearts since the Fall) corrupts the way we think about relationships. Despite our vast and varied problems, we are not left alone. We have hope, we have instruction, and we have a Savior who not only forgives but empowers the kind of life that makes His grace and good design possible. The Song of Songs gives us insight, instruction into love, dating, marriage, romance, sex, conflict, and deepening all the while showing us our ultimate need for a true bridegroom in Jesus to come for us as his church, his bride.

Our study of The Song will have this general flow and focus:

- 3.16 SoS 1:7 - 2:7: Attraction
- 3.23 SoS 2:8 - 3:5: Dating/Courting
- 3.30 SoS 3:6 - 5:1: Marriage/Consummation
- 4.6 SoS 5:2 - 6:13: Conflict**
- 4.13 SoS 7:1 - 8:14: Deepening

In our verses this week, the wedding day and 'honeymoon' season has passed, and an episode of conflict enters the scene. The section today will teach us this **Big Idea**: Practice Gospel Responses, not Sinful Reactions in (Marital) Conflict.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro

1. Recall and share a relational conflict you have had in the past, or is current (could be marital, work, friends, family, etc...)
 - a. What role did expectations play in the conflict? Were they known and communicated beforehand?
 - b. How was the conflict resolved?

Read Song of Songs 5:2 - 6:12, making note of the following scenes as you read:

5:2-8 Dreamy Conflict; **5:9-6:3** Questions Why/Where; **6:4-12** Reunited & Reaffirmed

2. What stands out to you as notable in each section? Why?
3. (Quote) *"A healthy relationship is not one in which no conflict ever occurs, but one in which that conflict gets resolved."*
 - a. How does this relate to you? (expectations, goals?)
4. How does this passage highlight the gospel?
 - a. How does God "deal" with conflict? How then, should we navigate conflict?
5. See below, pg 2, for "10 Tips on Fighting Fair"

10 Tips on Fighting Fair

Which 'tips' below do you practice the least or never? Why?
How can these be applied to your relationships right now?

1. **Confront problems** as soon as possible after they arise. Don't allow them to fester and cause bitterness.
2. **Master the art of listening**. Show your mate respect by hearing her or him out. Ask for clarification if you don't understand. Be patient. Don't hurry the conversation.
3. **Limit the discussion** of the conflict to the present issue. Don't drag out yesterday's (or last year's!) dirty laundry. Being "historical" will infect the conversation.
4. **Use "I" messages** in making your point and expressing your emotions. This allows you to take responsibility for your feelings, and it also allows the other person to hear about your feelings without feeling defensive. "You" messages tend to be perceived as attacks and criticism. Why? Because they are!
5. **Avoid exaggerations** such as "always," "never," etc. Such statements are seldom true simply because as inconsistent human beings we very seldom "always" or "never" do anything.
6. **Avoid character assassination** (name calling and putdowns). Pointing out character flaws or demeaning another person will do nothing but stir up greater disharmony.
7. **Use appropriate words and actions** for the matter at hand. Not all arguments are worth fighting at peak volume. The fact is, no argument is worth fighting at peak volume.
8. **Don't be concerned about winning or losing** the argument. It's better if both parties can be more concerned about resolving the conflict rather than who "wins" or "loses." *Compromise* is a good word and a valuable goal in this context.
9. **Determine limits**. Comments that are hurtful or damaging must be avoided. Speak to your mate in the way you want your mate to speak to you.
10. **Choose to forgive**. All people fail. If we don't give others a chance to start over after failure, our relationships will suffer. Complete forgiveness may take time, depending on the degree of hurt caused by the other person. However, it's important to have an attitude of forgiveness and to keep asking God to help you get to the point where you can truly forgive. Remembering how much you have been forgiven by Christ is essential at this point (Eph 4:32).