

That Thing Called Love #1
Attractions

Word

Scripture Reference

Song of Solomon 1:1-11

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that what the Bible says about love, sex, intimacy, romance, and relationships is relevant to today's culture?
 2. In our culture today, love, sex, and intimacy have been cheapened even among Christians because we make the wrong assumption that the God who made us with feelings and passions has nothing to say about those issues. But the same God who calls us to holy living, the same God who challenges us to live lives of self-control with the help of the Holy Spirit, has dedicated an entire book of the Bible to the issues of love, sex and intimacy especially in the context of relationships. The Song of Solomon, tells us of the love between Solomon and a woman. Read Song of Solomon 1:1-11 and describe the attraction of the woman to Solomon (v. 2-3).
 3. What usually attracts you to a person of the opposite gender? If you're already married, what attracted you to your spouse? Discuss the importance of exerting effort to be well-groomed and attractive. Why should you not let yourself be physically unattractive just because you are married?
 4. Physical attraction is both permissible and desirable because that's the way God wired us. However, God also designed us to be spiritually attracted to a person of the opposite gender. The woman in our passage was attracted to Solomon not only because he was handsome, but because of his inner beauty and integrity (v. 3b). Discuss what you think are attributes that you should look for in a partner. If you are married, what attributes do you think should you cultivate to keep the spiritual attraction in your relationship?
5. The Bible teaches us that in looking for a person to whom we can be spiritually attracted, we need to look for two things:
 - (a) *Look for someone who is a Christian.* Read 2 Corinthians 6:14. What does the Bible say about intermarriage between a believer and non-believer? Discuss why it is not possible for two people of different faith to connect at the same spiritual level. If you are a Christian married to a non-believer, you cannot simply divorce your mate; but how can you lead your spouse to the Lord? How can you instill in your children's young minds that spiritual attraction is more important than physical attraction?
 - (b) *Look for someone who has an active faith, whose passion for Jesus is deep and strong.* How can you tell that a person genuinely walks with the Lord? Why is it important for men in either a marriage or dating relationship to be taking the initiative to lead in matters of spiritual nature, like prayer? What are the things that you could be praying for together?
 6. It is also important to know that strong attraction can keep people from making a common sense decision. When two people become emotionally attached to each other, it becomes difficult to logically reason with them. Our passage gives us three guardrails that can protect you from falling into the wrong kind of attractions:
 - (a) *Good reputation (v. 4).* What is the person you're attracted to known for? Discuss why it is important that the person you are attracted to has good outside reputation. Why is approval from others especially from your parents important? If you are already in a marriage or dating relationship, does your relationship honor God? Can you be proud of the person you are dating?
 - (b) *Good character (v. 5-6).* Describe the woman that Solomon is attracted to. Why should you not be attracted to someone who is rebellious, or someone who is lazy? Good character is how you act when no one is looking or how you treat others when under pressure. Do you agree that how the person you're attracted to treats others is how he or she will treat you after marriage? Discuss how you can cultivate and develop good character whether you are married or single.
 - (c) *Strong godly convictions (v. 7).* The woman has a strong conviction that she would not compromise her integrity just to get a man, even if that man was King Solomon. Why do you think should personal

convictions not be compromised or thrown away? If you have fallen in sin and given up your conviction, what should you do in order to be right with God?

7. How should you respond when you have found someone who fits these guardrails? In verses 9-10 we see that Solomon responded by regarding her as a highly-valued woman and treated her with respect. As a result, what Solomon thought of her affected everyone around them (v. 11). They, too, approved of her and thought her a highly-valued woman. How do you treat the person you are dating or your spouse? How does attraction affect a God-honoring relationship?

Walk

In considering being in a God-honoring relationship, think through the guardrails of attraction. Do you value the opinion and have the approval of your loved ones by looking for someone with a good reputation? Do you look for someone who has a strong godly character? Do you look for someone who will not compromise his/her convictions?

These guardrails also work both ways. Are you someone who is worthy of someone's attraction? Is your reputation applauded by people in different circles? Are you a person of good character and strong convictions? Are you striving to become the person you're also praying about? If you are already married, are you resolved to be a better person for you mate?

Worship & Prayer

Pray for...

- Open our spiritual eyes to see the beauty of each person in God's perspective.
- Wisdom and guidance in preparing for the Cebu and Shanghai mission trips and also for the College Camp.
- Blessings for all EV2 evangelism trainees.
- Salvation, grace and provision for the families affected by earthquake in Nepal.
- Blessings and protection for the OMF short-term mission team in Vietnam.
- Healing for S.E.T., Rosa Siy, IB, Nenita.