



## SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Song of Songs, Part 2: Words & Waiting - Song of Songs 1:5-2:2 - May 3, 2026

### SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Love letter hiding places, the words we say when we are young and smitten, and how age and experience dampens those sentiments.

Key Theme: The Words we Speak and the Words we Hear

#### A. The Words We Say to Ourselves

The **Shulammitte/Bride** shifts from gushing about **Solomon** (v. 2-4), to being critical of herself and her appearance (v. 5-7).

To be “*very dark*” “*because the sun has looked upon me*” is an indicator that this woman is of low social status, working manual labor in the fields, acquiring a deep tan. Contrary to modern standards of beauty, having a tan back then was considered undesirable.

She is disliked by her family, and forced to work the vineyards, to the point that she has been unable to tend to her own body & appearance (v. 6).

**Illustration:** *Cinderella* story!

Though she longs to be beckoned by Solomon (v. 7), *she feels inadequate and unattractive.*

**Application:** I often convince myself that I am unlovely to the Lord Jesus - that there is too much wrong with me, and that I carry too much guilt to be loved by him.

Is this simply an issue of positive self-talk? Or more an issue about how we listen to the voices outside ourselves?

#### B. The Words We Say to Those We Love

The answer is not better self-speech, but better listening to those who love us!

Solomon calls her beautiful 3 times (v. 8, 15) and extols her worth and attractiveness.

**Marriage Tip:** Our spouses self-talk is probably critical, just like the bride. We should take it upon ourselves to constantly encourage and compliment those areas of our spouse’s life that are truly worth praising.

It is not only Solomon who speaks encouragement to the bride, but also the **COMMUNITY** around her!

She is speaking to the “daughters of Jerusalem” (v. 5) and they respond to her! (v. 11)

**Illustration:** *Cinderella’s* mice

**Application:** We don’t only need a spouse’s encouragement, but also the support and encouragement of a Christian community.

**Important:** The bride begins to speak back to her beloved (v. 12-14, 16-17) - just as much as we need to hear words of compliment, we need to be constantly speaking them as well.

#### C. The Words Christ Says to Us

When we come to church, we come to say words to Jesus, but are we really listening to the words of love and affection that he is saying to us?

We too often have a view of God as austere and transcendent in a heavenly courtroom - ready to **judge** but not ready to **love**.

We also too often see our salvation as a strictly transactional event between God and ourselves - but we need to notice words of love in the New Testament - and **see the Gospel message of Christ’s life, death, resurrection as an act of divine love.**

**In the Bible, Jesus is constantly speaking words to us that combat our self-talk of weakness, inadequacy, and failure.** It is TRUE that we all have sin that shows up as very real weakness and inadequacy and failure - but the gospel message presents and love and grace that can conquer our sin.

Have we forgotten *the first Christian words we learned* - Jesus LOVES me, this I KNOW. For the Bible tells me so!



## **SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you remember love letters? Is that a dying or dead practice? How does age and experience diminish our ability to say or write words of affection?
2. Why do most of us identify with the woman in v. 5-7 - being overly critical of our own appearance or value or worth?
3. Are there compliments that your spouse can say to you that really encourage you?
4. Are there words of encouragement from Christian community that have helped you in the past?
5. How seriously do you take your role as a "words of encouragement" speaker? Both to your spouse and to your Christian community?
6. Is it hard for you to see Jesus as a lover of your soul? Is your mental picture of Christ more transcendent or more intimate?
7. What words of Christ in the Bible have you found to be most encouraging in your times of need?