



# SONG OF SONGS

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

*A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body*

### THE STANDARD OF BEAUTY IN BIBLE AND CULTURE

#### Read the Text

#### **Song of Songs 6:4-13**

<sup>4</sup> You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love,  
lovely as Jerusalem,  
awesome as an army with banners.

<sup>5</sup> Turn away your eyes from me,  
for they overwhelm me—

Your hair is like a flock of goats  
leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

<sup>6</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of ewes  
that have come up from the washing;  
all of them bear twins;  
not one among them has lost its young.

<sup>7</sup> Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate  
behind your veil.

<sup>8</sup> There are sixty queens and eighty concubines,  
and virgins without number.

<sup>9</sup> My dove, my perfect one, is the only one,  
the only one of her mother,  
pure to her who bore her.

The young women saw her and called her blessed;  
the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.

<sup>10</sup> “Who is this who looks down like the dawn,  
beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun,

awesome as an army with banners?”

### **Main Point**

What is the significance of beauty in a relationship? In this passage, it seems pretty important as verse after verse is the husband praising the beauty of his wife. Are we supposed to put so much emphasis on physical beauty though? When placed in a godly context, the answer is – yes!

***When we see someone with godly beauty, we see them through the lens that they are created in God’s image.*** That beauty is not an end in itself though. Their beauty directs us towards God and His love for us. And in marriage, it is meant to compel us towards four components of marriage: companionship, calling, children, and intimacy.

In the context of marriage, this beauty becomes a deep and beautiful connection to our spouse. Your spouse is the one God sovereignly chose for you. ***Your spouse was designed for you and their beauty is generated in the exclusivity of your relationship.*** God gave you your spouse, and your standard of beauty is designed to be directly attached to them.

Sometimes our godly lens of beauty can be tarnished by the cultural lens of beauty. Whether it’s the envy of social media, the airbrushed filters of advertisements, or the dark lure of pornography, we all have cultural misrepresentations vying for our attention. When we succumb to cultural standards, we will never be satisfied – with ourselves or our spouse. However, ***when we embrace the godly standard of beauty, we do experience satisfaction, because our desires align with God’s design for us.*** And although we’ll never have full satisfaction on this side of Heaven, our godly standard of beauty is meant to compel us towards God, who is our only form of total satisfaction.

## Reflect Together

*This may be a good week to split into gender specific groups.*

1. Cultural beauty and godly beauty are in constant tension with one another. We have godly beauty that God created for us to enjoy and embrace, and then we have cultural beauty that distorts and leads to temptation, lust, and sin. **What does godly beauty mean to you? Where have you experienced it?**
2. **Where do you sometimes struggle in embracing worldly beauty over godly beauty?** This can be stirred up with things like social media, marketing, pornography, etc.
3. We talked about how the answer to the lure of cultural beauty is to seek satisfaction in the beauty of Jesus. What could this look like for you? **When you struggle with cultural over godly standards of beauty, what could help draw you back to Jesus?**