



SONG OF SONGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body

DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE UNTIL IT'S TIME

Read the Text

Song of Songs 8:1-7

- ¹ Oh that you were like a brother to me
who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I found you outside, I would kiss you,
and none would despise me.
- ² I would lead you and bring you
into the house of my mother—
she who used to teach me.
I would give you spiced wine to drink,
the juice of my pomegranate.
- ³ His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand embraces me!
- ⁴ I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.
- ⁵ Who is that coming up from the wilderness,
leaning on her beloved?
Under the apple tree I awakened you.
There your mother was in labor with you;
there she who bore you was in labor.
- ⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
the very flame of the Lord.
7 Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
he would be utterly despised.

Main Point

Throughout *Song of Songs*, the woman reminds her friends to “not awaken love until it pleases”. Why does she keep coming back to this exhortation? As we further understand God’s plan and design for sex and relationships, we see that ***awakening love before it's time can be very dangerous because love, being the powerful thing that it is, can only exist healthily within the context of a covenantal Godly marriage between one man and one woman.*** Love and physical intimacy require respect for its danger and beauty, and God designed marriage as the container for these gifts.

God’s design for marriage is for love to be sustaining, permanent, persevering, and invaluable. When we awaken love before it’s time, our needs will never be met or fulfilled, because the covenant of marriage isn’t there. There is always an out when there is no covenant. But in marriage, we commit to facing difficult times together. We promise to God to stick together and to endure together no matter what, and we come out of it with deeper love and connection.

Whether married or single, we get to experience this love in its most perfect form through Jesus. Whatever we may want in a spouse, we *need* in a Savior and we all have access to that perfect love. As we grow in understanding and receiving that love, we are better equipped to experience that love in covenantal marriage.

Reflect Together

Review these questions before discussion and decide if you'd like to separate into gender specific groups.

1. ***What is the danger in awakening love before it's the appropriate time?*** Why do you think God designed physical intimacy to stay within marriage? Do you have personal experience you'd be willing to share about how you learned or are in the process of learning this truth?
2. Love from Jesus and within marriage is sustaining, permanent, persevering, and invaluable. ***Which one of these elements do you relate to the most? Which one is a struggle? If you're married, how does this apply to your marriage?***
3. ***Was there anything from this sermon or the question and response time that was a struggle for you to hear?*** Talk it out with your community. It's okay to be in the midst of the grappling – your community is here not to fix it, but to listen and relate and reflect truth to you.