



SONG OF SONGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body

CATCHING FOXES: BEATING CONFLICT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Read the Text

Song of Songs 2:8-17

⁸ The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes,
leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Behold, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away,

¹¹ for behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree ripens its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my beautiful one,

and come away.

¹⁴ O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the crannies of the cliff,

let me see your face,

let me hear your voice,

for your voice is sweet,

and your face is lovely.

¹⁵ Catch the foxes for us,

the little foxes

that spoil the vineyards,

for our vineyards are in blossom.”

¹⁶ My beloved is mine, and I am his;

he grazes among the lilies.

¹⁷ Until the day breathes

and the shadows flee,

turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle

or a young stag on cleft mountains.

Main Point

As the couple continues to pursue one another, we see that they are also aware that conflict and trouble are inevitable in a marriage. This is what they refer to as “foxes”. Their proactive approach to struggles in their marriage shows us that **great marriages do not just happen. They are fought for and they are forged over time.** This requires us to *fight* for one another and alongside one another. This is countercultural to our current world because broken marriages and divorce are more the norm than the exception. So what can we do to protect our marriages so we can flourish?

Remembering and reflecting God’s intended roles for us in marriage is one step towards a more godly and healthy marriage. We see in Ephesians 5 that God created men to lead their wives and women to submit to their husbands. In today’s culture, people may bristle at this concept. However, when a man leads with love, sacrifice, and godliness, submission is a beautiful

thing. It doesn't mean that leading and submitting are easy, but it does provide an ideal that Jesus invites us to work towards. A husband's love for his wife is meant to mirror the love that Christ has for the Church. Likewise, a wife's submission to her husband is meant to mirror the Church's submission to Jesus.

It doesn't take long to be married to realize how sin and Satan love to creep in and turn us away from one another. A common reason for this is that our priorities of 1. God, 2. Spouse, 3. Kids, 4. Career, and 5. Hobby compete for one another and get disordered. Maybe your job or kids outrank your spouse, and you find yourself investing in work, and just acting as co-parents with your spouse and not actually connecting at a deeper and intimate level. ***We need to remember the order of loves that God intends for us. And when we fall short of properly ordering those loves, we need to confess our sin and seek repentance and reconciliation with our spouse.*** The good news is that no matter the sin or issue, there is nothing that Jesus can't redeem, restore, and forgive. And we in turn are able to offer that forgiveness to one another.

Reflect Together

1. "Foxes" can be a myriad of different issues – broken past, stubbornness, disordered loves, current or past sin – **what are some foxes you're dealing with right now? If you're single, what kind of foxes do you think you may be prone to bringing into a marriage?**
2. [Ephesians 5](#) outlines a beautiful picture of marriage and the unique and complementary roles of husband and wife – husbands are to lead and love sacrificially, and wives are to submit to that leadership. **How are you emulating these roles in your marriage, and where is it sometimes a struggle? If you're single, what are your thoughts on these distinct roles and how do you want to grow in your understanding of them?**

3. The order of loves is meant to be 1. God, 2. Spouse, 3. Kids, 4. Career, 5. Hobby. **How are you doing with properly ordering your loves, and where could you improve? What is one specific step you can take in properly ordering your loves?**