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NORTH METRO CHURCH

NMC SERMON SERIES CONTENT



into·me·see

A journey through Song of Solomon

“Into Me See” SERIES OVERVIEW:

Most people are looking for love. Most people are looking for companionship. It's why we date. It's why we marry. But what we are all craving within the depths of our spirit is intimacy.

A closeness to and with someone. Intimacy can be described as Into Me See. Being vulnerable and courageous enough to invite someone else to really see you...to really know you...the real you. And for that invitation to be reciprocated. In this new series entitled Into Me See, we will be diving into the OT book known as The Song of Solomon to glean from the poetic story of one couples journey into intimacy.

THE BOOK OF SONG OF SOLOMON

Author: Solomon wrote Song of Solomon, according to the first verse. This song is one of 1,005 that Solomon wrote ([1 Kings 4:32](#)). The title “Song of Songs” is a superlative, meaning this is the best one.

Date of Writing: Solomon most likely wrote this song during the early part of his reign. This would place the date of composition around 965 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: The Song of Solomon is a lyric poem written to extol the virtues of love between a husband and his wife. The poem clearly presents marriage as God’s design. A man and woman are to live together within the context of marriage, loving each other spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

This book combats two extremes: asceticism (the denial of all pleasure) and hedonism (the pursuit of only pleasure). The marriage profiled in Song of Solomon is a model of care, commitment, and delight.

Key Verses:

Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4 - “Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”

Song of Solomon 5:1 - “Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.”

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 - “Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.”

Brief Summary: The poetry takes the form of a dialogue between a husband (the king) and his wife (the Shulamite). We can divide the book into three sections: the courtship (1:1 - 3:5); the wedding (3:6 - 5:1); and the maturing marriage (5:2 - 8:14).

The song begins before the wedding, as the bride-to-be longs to be with her betrothed, and she looks forward to his intimate caresses. However, she advises letting love develop naturally, in its own time. The king praises the Shulamite’s beauty, overcoming her feelings of insecurity about her appearance. The Shulamite has a dream in which she loses Solomon and searches throughout the city for him. With the help of the city guards, she finds her beloved and clings to him, taking him to a safe place. Upon waking, she repeats her injunction not to force love.

On the wedding night, the husband again praises the beauty of his wife, and in highly symbolic language, the wife invites her spouse to partake of all she has to offer. They make love, and God blesses their union.

As the marriage matures, the husband and wife go through a difficult time, symbolized in another dream. In this second dream, the Shulamite rebuffs her husband, and he leaves. Overcome with guilt, she searches the city for him; but this time, instead of helping her, the guards beat her—symbolic of her pained conscience. Things end happily as the lovers reunite and are reconciled.

As the song ends, both the husband and wife are confident and secure in their love, they sing of the lasting nature of true love, and they yearn to be in each other’s presence.

Foreshadowings: Some Bible interpreters see in Song of Solomon an exact symbolic representation of Christ and His church. Christ is seen as the king, while the church is represented by the Shulamite. While we believe the book should be understood literally as a depiction of marriage, there are some elements that foreshadow the Church and her relationship with her king, the Lord Jesus. [Song of Solomon 2:4](#) describes the experience of every believer who is sought and bought by the Lord Jesus. We are in a place of great spiritual wealth and are covered by His love. Verse 16 of chapter 2 says, “My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies” (NKJV). Here is a picture of not only the security of the believer in Christ ([John 10:28-29](#)), but of the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep—believers—and lays down His life for us ([John 10:11](#)). Because of Him, we are no longer stained by sin, having had our “spots” removed by His blood ([Song of Solomon 4:7](#); [Ephesians 5:27](#)).



Practical Application: Our world is confused about marriage. The prevalence of divorce and modern attempts to redefine marriage stand in glaring contrast to Solomon’s Song. Marriage, says the biblical poet, is to be celebrated, enjoyed, and revered. This book provides some practical guidelines for strengthening our marriages:

- 1) Give your spouse the attention he or she needs. Take the time to truly know your spouse.
- 2) Encouragement and praise, not criticism, are vital to a successful relationship.
- 3) Enjoy each other. Plan some getaways. Be creative, even playful, with each other. Delight in God’s gift of married love.
- 4) Do whatever is necessary to reassure your commitment to your spouse. Renew your vows; work through problems and do not consider divorce as a solution. God intends for you both to live in a deeply peaceful, secure love.

Taken from:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Song-of-Solomon.html>

Video Overview of the book of Song of Solomon:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/song-songs/>

"INTO ME SEE" WEEK 7

Discussion Questions:

What do you hope your marriage will be like in 5, 10, 20, 40 years from now?

Read Song of Solomon 7:10-8:7

Summarize what you see taking place in this couples life in the passage?

What couple do you know that has modeled a romantic marriage over along period of time? How did they exhibit their love? What traits would you hope to emulate in your own marriage?

Rob's big idea from his message was: *"Intimacy only works when you work at it."* In your own words, describe what Rob meant by this statement and talk about how to apply this to your life.

Why is it important, for you, your marriage and for your family, that you apply this advice from Rob's big idea?

Is there any area of life where you get to maintain a minimum standard and it just works out?

What gets in the way of pursuing your spouse and connecting with them?

What are some practical ways to keep the "chores" of daily life from infringing upon the romance between you and your spouse?

Take a look at the advice Rob gave in his message and discuss what this looks like to incorporate them into the rhythm of your life:

Two practical steps:

- 1.Pursue your spouse how they like to be pursued
- 2.Pursue your spouse even when you don't feel like it

Three ways to prepare to pursue:

- 1.Encourage daily
- 2.Date weekly
- 3.Escape annually

What would incorporating these "tips" into your marriage do for your relationship?

How would you describe an ideal date with your spouse? In what ways do you keep date nights from becoming routine?

In our relationships, someone has to make the first move. If we wait around for the other person to make a move, we may be waiting a long time. In light of that, what, if anything, is significant about Rob's statement:

"Pursue your spouse even when you don't feel like it."

Each week we have included in our guide the reminder that all Scripture is useful in (a) teaching us, (b) rebuking us, (c) correcting us, and (d) training us in righteousness to equip us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). How have you witnessed this reality as we have studied through the book of Song of Solomon?

Looking back at this series, is there one thing you'd especially like to remember going forward?

Homework: Plan a special date with your spouse and discuss ways to incorporate the practical advice that Rob unpacked in his message. Share with each other:
Homework: Plan a special date with your spouse and discuss ways to incorporate the practical advice that Rob unpacked in his message. Share with each other:

- How you like to be pursued
- What a special date looks like for you
- Where and what you could do for an annual getaway