

The Talk

The Day

A wedding is a declaration of ongoing commitments (Song of Solomon 3:1-11). The wedding of Solomon to his Shulamite wife is a powerful example of their commitment to **pursue** one another, to seek to love each other in the way they receive love. It is also a demonstration of their commitment to always **provide** their best, to continually grow in wisdom and to address the deeper issues of their hearts and lives. And the wedding of Solomon shows their commitment to do whatever it takes to **protect** their relationship, to never entertain or speak of divorce, and to purposefully encourage and champion each other.

GETTING STARTED

What is one of the most meaningful things you have seen or experienced in a wedding? What is one of the worst *wedding-gone-wrong* moments you have witnessed?

GO DEEPER

1. According to Song of Solomon 3:1-11, King Solomon deliberately travels to pursue and retrieve his bride for their wedding. What does it look like to pursue in a relationship today (e.g. in dating, marriage, friendships, family, etc.)? How should we pursue each other before marriage, and then after our wedding day? What causes couples to lessen their pursuit of one another after they become married?
2. In the same passage, King Solomon was escorted by sixty warriors. What does protection in a marriage look like beyond just physical safety? How do we protect each other in marriage or in other significant relationships spiritually, emotionally, and relationally?
3. How should a single person *get ready* for marriage, or what are the primary indicators that a person is ready for marriage? How do we balance our desire for maturity in our spouse (or future spouse) with grace for imperfection?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How would you rate your pursuit in your marriage or in your other significant relationships? Why might your pursuit be less than it once was, and what can you do to change that?
2. How much do you speak or hear of divorce in your marriage or family? In your mind and heart, to what level or to what degree is divorce a legitimate option?
3. What makes you feel safe and protected in your marriage or significant relationships? What threatens that sense of safety or protection right now?
4. Do you believe your primary needs are being met in your marriage relationship? In what ways can you grow in meeting your spouse's primary needs?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray that God would empower and encourage you to honor the ongoing commitments you have made in marriage and/or in your significant relationships. Ask Him to help you pursue as you should in these relationships. And ask Him to give you clarity and vision for how to provide your best and to protect your marriage and significant relationships.

BLESS

Ask God this week for an opportunity to share your story of how He has worked and moved in your life. Ask Him to make the opportunity crystal clear, and for courage to seize the opportunity.