

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 4
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

THE WE - SOS 1:4, 11, 5:1B, 9; 6:1, 13; 8:8-9

INTRODUCTION

True friends help to reconcile their friends' marriages, not encourage the fight that keeps them apart.

DISCUSSION

What does God's desire for reconciliation teach us about how we are to live our lives?

EXPLANATION

Read James 5:16

What does this verse tell us about life together?

Read Romans 5:11

Why is reconciliation a time for rejoicing?

APPLICATION

How do you talk about your spouse to your friends?

How do your friends talk about your spouse?

Are your friends honest enough to tell you the truth?

Are your friends able to reset your perspective on a given situation?

MISSION

What is the best way that we could be the example of the WE?

How can we as a community at Element encourage unity in a marriage?

How can you as a Gospel community offer hope to each other in tough times of marriage?

How can you individually, and as a Gospel community, offer hope to those around you when they are struggling in their relationships?



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THE WE

Week 4 Notes & SCRIPTURE VERSES

Hebrews 10:24-25
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Genesis 2:18
Deuteronomy 6:4

John 10:37-38
Exodus 1:12
SOS 1:4, 11; 5:1, 9
6:1, 13; 8:8-9

Romans 5:11
2 Corinthians 5:18-19
James 5:16



THE WE – SOS 1:4, 11, 5:1B, 9; 6:1, 13; 8:8-9

Hebrews 10:24-25 “*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*”

In the Song of Solomon, much is left to the imagination of the reader rather than spelled out for the curious modern person (who wants to know the specific meaning of every detail).

The Song of Solomon contains 117 verses that have an amazing number of rare words, words that occur only in the Song of Songs, many only once. There are about 470 different words in the whole Song and 50 of these are *hapax legomena* (meaning used once). Since use is a major way of determining the meaning of words in another language, the result is that we are often uncertain as to the exact meaning of key terms and phrases.

Another problem is that the imagery used was a normal part of a culture that is very different from our modern world. The scene is pastoral and Middle Eastern. There are references to nature, birds, animals, spices, perfumes, jewelry, and places that are not the normal vocabulary of a modern love story. We understand the overtones of “bedroom”, but when the lover refers to “the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside”, we become more aware that the places of rendezvous were different for lovers in that world than in ours.

But in all of the scriptures friendship played a large role in any couple life. The She, the He, and the We (the us), coming alongside each other in love, helping to make marriage last as a community. *Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”* This is not just true of marriage but of all our lives.

To see why community matters so much to God, you have to see what life was like for God before creation, and this is where the doctrine of the Trinity is very important. The Trinity is difficult for us to comprehend or explain (God in three persons, Deuteronomy 6:4). Difficult or not, scripture tells us that God Himself has always experienced perfect community within Himself. All community has to be rooted in the being of God or it is worthless.

For better or worse, we are shaped by the people around us. Jean Vanier “*A community is never there just for itself or for its own glory. It comes from and belongs to something much greater and deeper: the heart of God to bring humanity to fulfillment. A community is never an end in itself; it is but a sign pointing further and deeper, calling people to love.*”

The WE should be a strength, not a weakness.

- Pick friends who encourage you to love one another
- Pick friends who give you GODLY advice
- Pick friends who give you good counsel

When a couple fights, friends should help them to reconcile. They don't egg the fight on, they say, “what can we do to help.” They strive to bring the couple to reconciliation. This is also key to who God is. In Romans 5:11, we are told “*More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*” Jesus reconciled us to Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 “*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*” It is our job to bring reconciliation to the world, speaking of Christ's love and hope, but it is also to be lived in our marriages as well. Marriage is no place for pride, wounded egos, or vendettas.

True friends help to reconcile their friends' marriages, not encourage the fight that keeps them apart.