

# Love Matters – Week One

All Loved up – Song of Songs 1:1 – 2:7

Holy Desires 1: 1 -4

- God created us sexual beings
- The beloved wants intimacy – a kiss that longs for more
- ‘Let the king bring me into his chambers’

The Friends 1:4

- Sexuality – private but public

Mirror, mirror on the wall 1:5 – 7

- Dark am I yet lovely
- My brothers were angry with me
- She longs for someone in her life
- She becomes vulnerable and goes looking...

The friends 1:8

- They encourage love
- They encourage responsibility

Love talk 1:9 – 2:6

- The lover speaks – you drive me mad
- A duet begins – a vocabulary of love develops
- He is taken by her beauty and promises to make her more beautiful
- She invites him and he responds
- They enjoy one another – they make time for one another

The beloved speaks to her friends 2:7

- Peace is important in a relationship
- Rest and patience are important too
- This is explosive stuff - Handle with care!

## Digging Deeper

1. What are your hopes and fears in studying the Song of Songs together?
2. Why do we find sex and relationships challenging to discuss? Is this something as British people we find challenging. Any ideas as to why?

Read Song of Songs 1:1 – 2:7

1. How do we treat something that is very powerful?
2. What happens to the Beloved as she falls head over heels for her lover?
3. In verse 4 and 8 the friends join in. There is a communal aspect throughout the Song of Songs. What part do the friends play in this stage of the song? How does this help those who are not currently in a committed relationship understand their role? What does Romans 12: 9 – 16 teach us about our life in community?
4. In verse 5 she reflects on her experience growing up. She is concerned about her personal appearance. It seems that body image is not just a present day trauma! What is it about falling in love that causes us to think about our looks?
5. Who takes the lead in the dating? What is the impact on the Lover? Verse 9 – 11, 15, 17 2:2
6. There is a lot of anticipation of more in this opening section of the Psalm. What is the beloved saying to her lover? Verse 2 – 4, 12 – 14, 16, 2: 3 – 5
7. What is the picture that is sung about in verse 6?
8. What does the refrain in verse 7 mean? Why does this come at this point in the song?