



Song of Songs

Session 1: Her and Him

Before viewing the DVD, read the *Song of Songs*. As you read, ask yourself if it makes more sense as steamy love poetry between human lovers or a spiritualized infatuation with the Divine? Both? Share your first impressions with the group.

1. Discuss some of the various interpretations and attributions possible in the superscription: "shir ha-shirim asher leshlomo."
2. What are some of the unique (and surprising!) elements of *Song of Songs*?
3. What might have been some of the reasons for including *Song of Songs* in the Bible?
4. What can we know about the lovers in *Song of Songs*? Is it one couple or a variety of couples? Teenagers? Why does it matter?
5. Dr. Wolfe names the lovers *ra'yati* and *dodi*. What are some of the pros and cons of naming the lovers versus leaving them anonymous?

6. How would you describe the role of the “Daughters of Jerusalem”? As you consider Dr. Wolfe’s hunch, read *Song of Songs* 1.5; 2.7; 3.5, 10, 11; 5.8, 16 and 8.4 and discuss your own impressions.

7. What are the implications of this session’s material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

BONUS QUESTION: If you were making the *Song of Songs* into a film, who would you cast in the roles of *ra’yati* and *dodi*?

