**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.**

1. *What is your favorite season of the year, and why?*
2. *Looking back over your life? What was your favorite season? What made this time in your life so special? What was your least favorite season? What made this time in your life so difficult?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekends message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

**In Song of Solomon Chapter 2 we take a step deeper into the relationship between King Solomon & His Shulamite Wife. As they celebrate the love that they have experienced over the years they describe to the reader the various seasons their relationship experienced. These seasons give us a biblical framework for our relational seasons, and how to respond in each season.**

* *As a group spend some time reading through Song of Solomon 2:7-17. Write down any observations, questions, important insights you gain from reading the text.*
* Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV) **“***For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” What do you think Solomon was trying to say? If you were to define some of the seasons you have experienced in you own life, what would they be? How did God use these seasons to develop you into who He wants you to become?*

*Song of Solomon 2:8-10 represents a season of perfection for Solomon & His wife. How does the text describe this season? Have you ever experienced a season of perfection in your relationship? Have you ever experienced a season of perfection in your relationship with God? What was that season like?*

*(Other Biblical Passages that Describe a Season of Perfection: Proverbs 5:18-19, Proverbs 30:18-19, Deut. 24:5)*

*Song of Solomon 2:11-13 represents the end of a season of winter & preparation for Solomon & His wife. How does the text describe this season? Have you ever experienced a season of winter & preparation in your relationship? Have you ever experienced a season of winter & preparation in your relationship with God? What was that season like?*

*(Other Biblical Passages that Describe a Season of Preparation: 1 Peter 3:1-7)*

*Song of Solomon 2:14-17 represents a season of discovery for Solomon & His wife. How does the text describe this season? Have you ever experienced a season of discovery in your relationship? Have you ever experienced a season of discovery in your relationship with God? What was that season like?*

*(Other Biblical Passages that Describe a Season of Discovery: Gen. 2:22-24, Proverbs 20:6-7, Eph. 5:22-33)*

**Digging Deeper**

* *On Sunday Pastor Jason described the three Seasons that every relationship will experince, along with some actions we can take to experince fruitfulness in each season. Which season do you currently find yourself in with your spouse & with God? How do you feel about being in this season?*
* *What is one step you will take this week as a result of what you have learned from this study of Song of Solomon 2?*

**“PERFECT SEASONING”**

**Song of Solomon 2:7-17**

**Song of Solomon 2:7 (The Message)**

*Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem, by the gazelles, yes, by all the wild deer: Don’t excite love, don’t stir it up, until the time is ripe—and you’re ready.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)** *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*

**3 SEASONS IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP**

**1. SEASON OF PERFECTION**

**Song of Solomon 2:8-10 (ESV)***8The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. 9My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice. 10My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,*

**WHAT TO DO IN A SEASON OF PERFECTION?**

* **ENJOY *IT***
* ***DON'T* SMOTHER IT**

**2. SEASON OF PREPARATION**

* **BEFORE BLESSING US, GOD WILL OFTEN PLACE US IN A SEASON OF PREPARATION.**

***Song of Solomon 2:11-13 (ESV)*** 11*for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. 12The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. 13The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.*

**WINTER = PREPARATION THROUGH HARDSHIP**

**WHAT TO DO IN A SEASON OF PREPARATION?**

* **GET ALONE TO PRAY AND SEEK JESUS**
* **DON’T RUSH INTO SPRING PREMATURELY**

**3. SEASON OF DISCOVERY**

***Song of Solomon 2:14-15 (ESV)*** *14O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. 15 Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.”*

**WHAT TO DO IN A SEASON OF DISCOVERY?**

* **PROTECT YOUR PURITY**
* **GIVE YOURSELF FULLY TO ONE ANOTHER**

***Song of Solomon 2:16-17 (ESV)****16My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies. 17Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.*