

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 22

Song of Solomon

Objects to have:

The new sign: THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Jesus Loves Us

A picture of a wedding party

A picture of children

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the names of the books of the Bible. Then talk with the children about the fact that we have a book from the Old Testament that is full of songs or psalms; ask them what book that is.) Today we are going to talk about a book that is one complete song. That book is called The Song of Solomon. (Have the children repeat that title with you. Review briefly with them concerning who Solomon was and what kind of life he lived, the fact that he talked to his household and friends and loved ones about his life, etc. Show them in the Bible the location of the Song of Solomon.)

(Hold up the picture of the wedding party.) Let us pretend that we are going to a wedding. We are all dressed up in our Sunday clothes. When we get to church, someone is playing the organ; sometimes someone is playing the piano, too, for the wedding. The church looks extra pretty; there are more flowers on the platform than usual. There are candles in big, tall candle stands.

Men who are dressed in extra-fancy suits meet us in the aisles, and they show us where to sit. Then those men, called ushers, start walking down the aisle with the mothers and one of the daddies of the bride and the bridegroom. The other daddy later on will walk down the aisle with the bride, who is his daughter. Then two ushers light the candles. After that, the two ushers unroll the white carpet down the center aisle. The wedding is about to start!

The preacher walks out onto the platform. The groom and his best man walk onto the platform, too. How dressed up the men are! Someone sings. Then, in pretty long dresses and carrying flowers, young ladies with young men walk to the platform. They are all there except for the bride. Then the organ plays different, exciting music. (Hum part of the wedding march.) A door opens and in comes the bride and her daddy! Everyone is thrilled to see the bride in her beautiful white dress. The bride and her daddy walk down aisle to the platform. The bride's daddy sits down, the groom walks down from the platform and up the platform stairs with the bride. The wedding begins!

What a happy time! The bride and the groom are two people who had decided to share the rest of their lives together. Christian men and ladies should never marry non-Christians. Christians should ask the Lord whom they should marry.

Telling the story:

A bride and a groom love to be together. They love to go places together. They love to shop together. They love to do work around the house together. They love to go to church together. They love to talk with each other.

(Pantomime the following as you talk.) Let's pretend that the husband has gone to work. The bride is working around the house. She sees a folded-up piece of paper on the dresser. Her name is written on the outside of this piece of paper. She unfolds the paper. The paper says, "Dear Bride, I love you. I like taking care of you. I enjoy going to work so that I can earn money to buy food for you and to provide a home and clothes for you. Now

while I'm at work, I hope that you think about me. I hope that you are doing your work, also. I love you." At the bottom of the note is written, "Your husband." The bride loves to read that letter. She reads it over and over and then she decides that she should put down the letter and get to work so that the house is clean and she has the meal ready when her husband comes home from work.

One day the husband says to his bride, "I have to go away for a little while. I have to go on a business trip. You stay here, and wait for me until I get back." The husband doesn't really like to leave his wife! The bride hates to see him go! She knows that she will miss having him home while he is gone!

The next day she goes out into the yard. Her neighbor asks, "Where is your husband? We did not see him come home from work last night."

The bride says, "He is out of town. He is on a business trip. He will not be gone longer than a week. He will be coming back."

"You and your husband are very happy together, aren't you?" the neighbor asks the bride.

The bride says, "Oh, yes, we are. My husband is wonderful. I love just to hear his voice when he talks. I love just to look at him. He has pretty black hair. He is very handsome. He is very strong. He works hard to take care of me and to provide a home for me. I certainly do miss him while he is gone."

(While holding the wedding picture, hold up your Bible which is open to the Song of Solomon.) The book of the Song of Solomon tells us about a bride and her husband. They love each other very much. (Put down the wedding picture; continue holding up your Bible.)

The book of the Song of Solomon also shows us how much Jesus loves us. It shows us also how much we ought to love Him. The book of the Song of Solomon tells us about people who love Jesus.

I love to talk with Jesus. I love to tell Him what I have done during the day. How can I talk with Jesus? I talk with Jesus when I pray. I love to tell Jesus when I'm happy, and I thank Him for my happiness. I love to tell Him when I have a problem, and ask Him for help with my problem. I love to tell Him when I have work to do and ask Him to help me have strength and wisdom to do my work. I know that Jesus is listening to me when I bow my head and close my eyes and talk with Him. Sometimes if I am riding in a car or walking down the street and want to ask Him quickly for help about something, I talk to Jesus with my eyes open. I love to ask Jesus first thing in the morning to help me through the day. I love to tell Jesus the last thing at night what has happened during the day. All during the day I can talk with Him. I know that Jesus hears me, and He answers my prayers.

(Lay down your Bible, and pick up the picture of the children.) See these children? Let's say that they have asked Jesus to be their Saviour. They love Him because He loves them. They love to talk with Him, also. Just as the bride likes to talk with her husband, so everybody who loves Jesus loves to talk with Jesus.

Everybody who loves Jesus loves to have Jesus talk to him, also. How can Jesus talk to us? He can talk to us while we read the Bible, while we hear the Bible taught, and while we hear the Bible preached. He talks to us also through our thoughts. Jesus just lets us know things that we ought to know. Let's always listen when Jesus wants to talk to us!

Just as the husband had to leave his wife for a while, so Jesus has left the earth for a while. Jesus is in Heaven. Jesus is also with us if we have trusted Him as our Saviour; He is in our hearts. We cannot see Him with these eyes now, however, because He is in Heaven. We look for Him to come for us so that we can be with Him. Until He comes for us or until we die and go to Him in Heaven, we tell people about Him. We brag about Jesus because He is so wonderful and because we love Him. We need to tell people how to get saved so that they can know Jesus, too.

Do you think these children in this picture should tell others about Jesus? Yes, they should; they love Him. We should tell others about Him, too. Jesus deserves to be praised, and we should praise Him. That's what the book of the Song of Solomon tells us.

(Put down the picture of the children.) At the end of Solomon's life he decided, "This is the way a life should be lived: Trust God—obey Him." Well, it is a good thing that Solomon finally remembered that. It is very sad that he waited so long to remember that he should trust God and obey Him. Solomon was an unhappy old man because he did not live the way that Jesus wanted him to live. Happiness is found only in trusting Jesus and obeying Him. If you do other than that, your life will be wasted. Ask Jesus whether you should go to college and what college you should attend. Ask Jesus whom you should marry. Ask Jesus what kind of work you should do all your life. Do only what Jesus wants you to do. Let Him completely have your life. Don't be like sad old Solomon.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Song of Solomon 2:1, (Jesus says) "I AM the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."