



For Whom the Bell Tolls

Song of Solomon 8:4-14 • October 11th, 2026

BIG IDEA

A lifetime love is awakened, defined, developed, and enjoyed, and it points us to the Author of the story.

OUTLINE

Lifetime love is...

1. **Awakened** through dependence and struggle (v. 5)
2. **Defined** by a covenant that death can't quench (vv. 6-7)
3. **Developed** through character before commitment (vv. 8-11)
4. **Enjoyed** with joy for a lifetime (vv. 12-14)

CALL TO RESPOND

1. Lean on each other.
2. Guard your covenant.
3. Build character before you need it.
4. Enjoy your love story.
5. Meet the Author.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In verse 5, she is leaning on him as they come up from the wilderness. Where have you seen a couple lean on each other in a season of weakness, sickness, or aging? What did it teach you about love?
2. Love is described as painful, like birth, and "all things need work" (pregnancy, postpartum, hormonal seasons, stress, body image, chronic illness, surgery, intimacy struggles, and baggage from the past). Why do we tend to expect love to arrive finished? How would a more biblical expectation change the way we handle hard seasons?
3. In verses 6-7, love is described as a seal over the heart and arm, strong as death, and priceless. What does it look like to make your spouse first over kids, career, hobbies, and old relationships? What would you need to "delete" or reorder to do that?
4. Jesus holds the hand of His bride and promises never to leave or forsake us (Romans 8:38-39). How should His faithful love shape how we love when our spouse is unlovable?
5. In verses 8-11, her brothers guided her, and she proved faithful, hardworking, and pure. Then Solomon came. How do we know someone is ready for marriage? What does it look like for young people to place themselves under authority and wait on God?
6. Verses 12-14 show a love that is playful and joyful, even at the end of life. Why do we rarely picture older couples this way? What would it look like to pursue joy and delight in your marriage today?

DIRECT APPLICATION

1. Are you leaning on your spouse (or on God, if you're single) in your weakness, or are you striving to hold it all together on your own?



a. If you're leaning, share what has helped you build that posture of trust and dependence.

b. If you're struggling, confess it honestly, and ask your group to pray for you and to check in on you this week.

c. As a group, commit to coming alongside couples in hard seasons (sickness, grief, infertility, financial stress) with regular encouragement and practical help.

2. Is your spouse (or future spouse) absolutely sure they are first in your heart? Share one area, such as work, screens, friendships, hobbies, or old habits, that competes for the place that belongs to them. What is one step you can take this week to guard your covenant?
3. For those who are single or waiting: what "fields" has God given you to work in right now? How can you pursue character, purity, and obedience while you wait?
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