

STUDY 2 || SONG OF SONGS 1:1-2:7

ROSE COLOURED GLASSES

*Baby, I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms
Barefoot on the grass, listening to our favourite song
When you said you looked a mess,
I whispered underneath my breath
But you heard it, darling, you look perfect tonight*

- Ed Sheeran, 'Perfect'

She thinks she looks a mess. He thinks she looks perfect. It seems love is blind - it accentuates the positive and eliminates the negative.

How has love ever transformed the way you've seen someone else, or how someone else has seen you? If you're comfortable enough share your experience.

LONGING FOR LOVE AND LOVEMAKING

Read Song of Songs 1:1-2:7

1. What is it like for her to be 'in love'? Which senses are involved? (1:1-4)
2. What does she want? How does she express that? (1:1-7)
3. What kind of feast does she want from her lover? (2:3-6)
4. Romance is idolised by modern society, and yet there's an equal danger in Christian circles that we undervalue it. How important is romance before marriage? And in marriage?

We all long for intimacy. We long to belong. God made us to love and be loved. And it's this longing which is embedded and expressed in every love song (or poem), including this one.

SHALL I COMPARE THEE...

Love moved Shakespeare to search for comparisons: **'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?'** In this love song, the desire for love leads to description. And descriptions and declarations of love usually involve comparisons.

5. Fill in the following chart of descriptions.

How she sees him?	1:2
	1:3
	1:4 & 12
	1:13
	1:14
	1:16
	2:3
How she sees herself?	1:6
	2:1*
*Note: Sharon is an area where roses were common. And valleys in the region were typically full of lilies.	
How he sees her?	1:9
	1:10
	1:15
	2:2

6. What pet names do they have for each other?

'Sonnet 18', Shakespeare

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

7. Is the man really a king like Solomon? (v4,7-8,12) If not, what is he?

Love beautifully transforms how the man and woman see each other. Love wears rose coloured glasses.

A SONG FOR US

8. **Read Song of Songs 2:7.** This verse concludes the section with a warning. Put this advice in your own words. From what we've seen this week, why is it there?

9. The warning assumes that we all have some control over falling in love (at least in the start). Do you agree?

Romans 5:6&8

⁶ Christ died for the ungodly... ⁸ God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

10. **Read Romans 5:6&8 and 1 John 3:16.** How does the love of Christ transform the way he sees us? (cf. Romans 5:6-8) What difference will this make to how we relate to our partners (for those who are married) and others (as single or married)?