



February 19-25, 2017 • Community Group Lesson Plan • Winter Quarter - Week 6 •  
Abbotsford

**Title of Sermon: Fox Catching**

**Passage: Song of Songs 2:15**

**Introductory Discussion**

- Are people surprised that the scriptures have an entire book about romantic love? Why or Why not?
- Have you heard anyone preach on Song of Songs before? What kind of background do you have in regards to Song of Songs?
- Why do you think there has been a debate within the church about whether this book is a book on romantic love or the love of God for His Church? Do you think it is a good idea to teach on Song of Songs? Why or Why not?
- Song of Songs has very poetic, descriptive language about the relationship between a husband and wife. Compare and contrast this biblical language with the current cultural language about love.

**Point 1 - The Fox of the Perfect Soul Mate**

1. Give some examples from culture where perfect soul mate-ism is taught (songs, movies, stories from our own lives).
  - a. Where does this come from? Why do we believe this?
2. Are there kernels of truth in what this says to us? What are they? What are the dangers in believing “soul mate-ism” or believing there is one perfect person for each person?
  - a. What are the dangers for the married couple?
  - b. What are the dangers for dating couples?
  - c. How does this influence the ideals of the single person?
3. How are we influenced by the culture? How should we as Christians think differently about love and marriage?

**Point 2 - The Fox of Children**

1. How do we in our marriages (especially when we have children), sustain a romantic relationship with one another?
  - a. How do we talk to each other that fosters our love for one another?
  - b. In what ways can we adjust our schedules?
  - c. How can we adjust our attitude towards our spouse to reflect this?
2. What are the benefits of big romantic moments? How do we cultivate romance in daily life?
3. For Singles: How you see romance lived out in the married people around them in the big ways and in daily life?



### **Point 3 - The Fox of Bitterness**

1. Why is forgiveness so hard in a married relationship? What about in other close relationships (friendships, family)?
2. What strategies have worked for you in fostering forgiveness in your marriage? (Ephesians 4:26-27)
  - a. What strategies haven't worked? When you have looked at other relationships that have gone awry, what has happened that you don't want to emulate? What things have other couples done that you would want to employ?
  - b. For singles: When you look at marriages, what things have you seen that work and have not worked? What things are healthy and what are not?
3. How does our forgiveness from the Lord inspire us to forgive others? Read Colossians 3:12-14.
  - a. Discuss practical ways that we can reflect Christ's love to each other in our relationships, especially towards our spouses.

### **Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group?

Pray for each other along with other requests.

### **Benediction** - Numbers 6:24-26 NIV

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*