**Small Group Sermon Study Guide, 6/17/12**

*Song of Songs 1:2-4, 12-14 The Fragrant Name of Christ*

1) Communion. Jewish scribes paired *Song of Songs* with the Feast of Passover, which

 Celebrates God’s deliverance of his people out of Egypt.

This pairing of Passover with *Song of Songs,* reminds us that we are saved for relationship. In

fact, Exodus 19-24 is presented as a marriage ceremony between God and His people. The groom reminds the bride of what he has done for her, and the rules that will guide their relationship (Exodus 20-23). Then, as Peter Leithart says, “When Moses brings these words to the people, they say, basically, “I do”: “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!”(Exodus 24:3) The wedding ceremony ends with a wedding reception, a feast in the Lord’s presence (Exodus 24:9-11). (Peter Leithart, *A House For My Name, p79* )

 What do these passages teach us about our relationship to Christ?

 Hosea 2:14-23

 Isaiah 54:4-10

 John 3:27-30

 Ephesians 5:22-33

 Revelation 19:6-9 (also Rev 21:1-5)

2) *“Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.”*

Summertime is often a good time to cultivate our friendship with Jesus. Here are suggestions

 for developing your friendship with Him.

1) **Take Christ with you on a hike**. Tell him how you appreciate his world.

 2) **Soak yourself in one of the four gospels this summer**. Read it. Re-read it.

Re-read it again. Each time ask yourself, “How does this passage show Jesus wonderful beauty?”

 3) **Put together a playlist or a CD of your favorite adoration songs** and let be the

 soundtrack for your life for awhile.

4) **Memorize or meditate deeply on a psalm of love**. Consider Psalm 16,

 Psalm 23 Psalm 27, Psalm 63, Psalm 84, Psalm 116, Psalm 138.

 5) **Read a Christian classic this summer.** Older books like *The Narnia Chronicles* by C.S.

 Lewis*, Knowing God* by J.I. Packer*, The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas A Kempis.

New classics by Tim Keller: *The Prodigal God,* and *Counterfeit Gods*, as well as

*The Divine Conspiracy*, by Dallas Willard, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home,* by Richard Foster, and *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith.

 6) **Come to the book study Peter Ippel and I will be leading**.

 We will read *Water From A Deep Well,* by Gerald Sittser.

In this book, Sittser explores the diversity of Christian spirituality down

through history. “The voices of Christian’s echo to us across the centuries, saying, ‘There is more, so much more!” (page 17)

 7) **Try saying “breath prayers”. Sentences you can say in one breath of inhaling and**

 **exhaling.** “(Breathe in) Lord, have mercy on me, (breath out) a sinner”

 “(Breathe in) The Lord is my light and my salvation, (breath out) of whom shall

 I be afraid”

 “(Breathe in) “My son, you are always with me, (breath out) everything I have is yours”