

Song of Songs 6:4-8:4

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Language of love

- Poetic compliments (6:4-10, 7:1-9a)
 - Lovely like the Land
- But is everything in the garden still rosy...?
 - 'Number one' wife?! (6:8-9, 1 Kings 11:3)
 - Mrs Solomon the dancing girl?! (6:11-13)

Can we go back to love again?

- Two's company, 140's a crowd (7:10; 2:16, 6:3)
 - Dubious 'desire'? (Genesis 3:16, 4:7)
- Searching for springtime (6:11, 7:11-13; 2:10-15)
- Craving uncomplicated love (8:1-2)
 - Love reawakened (8:3-4)
- *We need a better lover...*

Discussion

- How does our culture encourage us to idolise marriage (or, at least, 'loving, stable relationships')? How can Song of Songs help us to resist this?
- What is our culture's typical response when things go wrong in marriage (or 'loving, stable relationships')? How does Song of Songs encourage us to respond?
