

**THE SONG OF SOLOMON**  
Allen Ross  
**Practical Lessons Drawn from the Text**

**I. The Shulamite and her beloved express their mutual adoration of each other in their anticipation of their union (1:2–2:7).**

*(Lesson #1: Husbands and wives need to continue to lavish praise on each other to show their love for and enjoyment and appreciation of each other.*

**A. The Shulamite expresses her adoration of her beloved in comparison to her unworthiness, longing for his presence (1:2-8).**

*(Lesson #2: The reassuring words of praise will offset natural feelings of insecurity and inadequacy.*

**B. The beloved praises her loveliness and promises to adorn her (1:9-11).**

*(Lesson #3: Such praise is naturally accompanied by romantic gifts, perhaps impractical, but lovingly given to the partner.*

**C. The Shulamite relates the value of her love as she is enraptured in his presence (1:12-14).**

**D. The beloved breaks into a rhapsody of praise for his bride who is fair and innocent (1:15).**

*(Lesson #4: Women, and especially men, need to develop the appropriate language of love for their situations, because words and images are powerful and memorable.*

**E. The Shulamite expresses her adoration of her beloved and expresses her pleasure and satisfaction in their woodland setting (1:16–2:1).**

**F. The beloved corrects her opinion of herself, and she in turn praises him (2:2, 3).**

*(Lesson #5: The focus of the lovers must always be exclusively on each other, and in their eyes no others are to be considered as equals to their spouse, let alone options or alternatives.*

*(Lesson #6: This kind of love provides a sense of place where the lovers have their identity, security and fulfillment.*

**G. The Shulamite recalls her trip to the banqueting hall and expresses her deep longing for her beloved (2:4-7).**

*(Lesson #7: Truly devoted lovers will not be afraid to declare their love for and loyalty to each other openly and publicly, so that everyone who hears will know that the choice was final.*

(Lesson #8: True lovers should be eager to go to each other and be with each other and please each other; they should study each other to know how to act and react.

**II. The Shulamite relates how her beloved came calling her away from her solitude, and then in the night she longed for him and looked for him (2:8–3:5).**

**A. The Shulamite relates how her beloved came to call her out of her solitude (2:8-15).**

(Lesson #9: The couple must be vigilant to protect what they have from any outside threat [the little foxes].

**B. The Shulamite claims union with the king and longs for his presence with her (2:16, 17).**

**C. The Shulamite recalls how in the night she longed for him and went to look for him (3:1-5).**

(Lesson # 10: In a loving relationship, holding and being held give the greatest sense of security and love. And by the way, if children see their parents holding each other, it will give such a sense of security to them--and of course their being held by the parents will do the same).

**III. The Shulamite describes the magnificent coming of the king to the wedding feast, and finding herself the object of praise and adoration, invites complete union with her beloved, an invitation he eagerly accepts (3:6–5:1).**

**A. The Shulamite describes the coming of the king to the wedding feast and urges the women of the court to marvel at his grandeur (3:6-11).**

**B. The king praises the bride's beauty on this their wedding (4:1-15).**

(Lesson # 11: Even though the bride might already be all-glorious, as in this case, the bridegroom must tirelessly praise her with images she loves and treasures, and with all the valuable things of her world.

**C. The Shulamite invites her beloved into her garden and their union is complete (4:16–5:1).**

(Lesson #12: In a loving relationship there is no need to be crude or crass--it cheapens the whole thing. Beautiful, romantic, poetic expressions of love elevate the relationship to its highest and most effective level.

(Lesson #13: Once the man and the woman are united in marriage they belong to each other and must not think independently of this relationship.

*(Lesson #14: The sexual union of the man and the woman in marriage is genuinely fulfilling when the couple prepare for it with the bonding of their hearts through their communication. They talk; and what they say expresses affection, devotion, desire, commitment . . .).*

**IV. The Shulamite relates the case and circumstances in which her beloved withdraws from her indifference. Causing much anxiety until she finds him again (5:2--6:3).**

**A. The Shulamite relates (by dream or reality) the case and circumstance in which her beloved withdrew himself from her indifference (5:2-6).**

*(Lesson #15: At times there will be misunderstandings [here his insistence and her indifference] when each thinks only of self; these need to be forestalled, and if they occur, remedied quickly.*

**B. The Shulamite relates her efforts to search the town for her beloved (5:7--6:3).**

*(Lesson #16: The lovers must always be able to easily and eagerly tell others of the love they have for one another; trouble comes when they give the impression it is not true.*

**V. The king, re-united with his bride, lavishes praise on her as they take their fill of love (6:4--8:7).**

**A. The king lavishes praise on his bride (6:4-10).**

*(Lesson #17: Whenever there has been a problem, the lovers must re-assure each other that nothing has changed in their love for each other. They have to set aside the erotic language now and re-establish the expression of true love.*

**B. The bride finds herself with her husband once again (6:11--7:1).**

*(Lesson #18: In the fulfillment of the union of marriage, the man and the woman can be completely comfortable with each other (as demonstrated in their trust of each other in their routines and their pleasures, such as with humor and dance. But again if the couple have studied each other, they will know how to play).*

**C. The bride invites her husband to the country where they can enjoy each others embraces as before (7:12--8:7).**

*(Lesson #19: Once the man and the woman are married, they can be aggressive with each other in the expression and fulfillment of their desires. If this aggressiveness is not under the seal of a marriage covenant, it will lead to pain and guilt.*

**VI. Flashback: The Shulamite recalls how her family cared for her until her beloved found her (6:8-14).**

*(Lesson #20: The joy that the man and the woman have together will now overshadow any earlier bad or bitter experiences.*