

## Ruth, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Esther

### Song of Songs – Part 2

#### Interpreting the Text:

1. What did you learn about Song of Songs? Did this discussion change your reading of this text in any way(s)? If so, how?
2. Share some of the images in this poem that stood out most to you. What did you find compelling and/or strange about these particular images? Do you have a favorite?
3. Do you perceive this poem to be about romantic love? How does it compare to other love poems you've read (historical or contemporary)? What similarities and/or differences do you see?

#### Applying the Text:

1. Some of the metaphors may have made more sense to people reading this thousands of years ago. Did you find any of the images or metaphors in this text odd or surprising? What might be a contemporary reimagining of these metaphors?
2. This poem talks about desire and longing, a rare topic in the Hebrew Bible. How can this text be a useful tool when talking about topics that may be more taboo in church spaces? Could this book be a helpful resource for facilitating safe and affirming conversations about romantic relationships?