

**Short Review**

Briefly summarize the message. Look for the following main points:

- a. How does being under the banner of love affect the woman in the text?
- b. The need for an outside perspective on our lives
- c. How God provides an outside perspective

**Some Questions for Discussion:** Focus the discussion on: How God works through relationships – both good and bad – to make us whole, if we are willing to listen.

1. What was your worst job in terms of the people you worked with? What was it about them that made it bad?
2. Do you have many friends or few friends? What helps to make friends, what hinders you from making friends?
3. Talk about the symbols of 'banner of love (vs. 4)' and 'shade' (vs. 3). What can kind emotional state do they describe?
4. Most of our parents told us, at various times, what we needed to work on ourselves, where we were not meeting the standard etc. When was it easy to hear that, when was it hard? Why?
5. Why do we have a hard time seeing so many of our own weaknesses and character flaws?
  - a. How do the messages in our culture help or hurt in this?
  - b. Discuss Jeremiah 17:9
  - c. Why does David have to pray Psalm 19:12<sup>a</sup>?
6. If there are interpersonal tensions in a church body, does it mean that the church is failing? What is God up to? Discuss the example of Phil. 4:2ff – what lessons can we draw about our own relationships with others in the church?
7. Discuss Proverbs 27:6, 27:17
8. Read the prayer in Psalm 141:5.
  - a. Why is it hard to pray this honestly?
  - b. How do we apply this to our marriages?