MAN AND WOMAN | GOD’S GOOD PURPOSE

WEEK 2: GENESIS 2

ANCHOR PASSAGES.

As you turn to the Scripture, consider using these passages as underpinnings for your group’s conversation. Encourage your group to read and pray through these Scripture passages prior to your group meeting and in the days following.

**Genesis 2:7**

**7**then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

**Genesis 2:18-25**

**18**Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” **19**Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.**20**The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. **21**So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22**And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23**Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
    and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
    because she was taken out of Man.”

**24**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **25**And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**Helpful Passages:**

* Ephesians 5:22-33

THEMES.

The following themes trace the high-level movement of this week’s Scripture passage. They may help you begin to frame the direction of your group’s conversation.

1. The Lord God carefully and actively formed all of creation,[[1]](#footnote-1) giving it order and beauty, meaning and purpose. (Gen. 2:4-25)
2. As the crowning achievement of his creation, the Lord God fashioned humanity in his image to live in *relationship* *with* and in *representation* *of* him. (Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:7; 18-25)
3. The Lord God created humanity male and female, sharing in equal value and dignity, yet possessing complementary qualities and roles. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:22-33)
4. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation and given to us by him as a sacred gift. (Gen. 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week’s Scriptures.

1. Genesis 1-2 reveal God to be the chief actor in the creation story.[[2]](#footnote-2) Take a moment to identify verses in Genesis 2:4-25 which highlight his divine initiative. What do these verses reveal about God’s character? His intentionality?

Hint: Look at all the verses where God is the subject followed by an action verb:[[3]](#footnote-3)

* … the Lord God had not caused it to rain… (v. 5)
* … the Lord God *formed* the man of dust from the ground and *breathed* into his nostrils the breath of life… (v. 7)
* And the Lord God *planted* a garden in Eden… (v. 8)
* … the Lord God *made to spring up* every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. (v. 9)
* The Lord God *took* the man and *put* him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (v. 15)
* And the Lord God *commanded* the man… (v. 16)
* … the Lord God *said*, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will *make* him a helper fit for him.” (v. 18)
* The Lord God had *formed* every beast of the field… (v. 19)
* So the Lord God *caused* a deep sleep to fall upon the man and… *took* one of his ribs… (v. 21)
* … the rib that the Lord God *had* *taken* from the man he *made* into a woman and *brought* her to the man. (v. 22)
1. Genesis 2:18 reads, “Then the Lord God said, “*It is not good* that the man should be alone.” This is a jarring statement because until this point God had declared everything in his creation good-several times over! What does he say is not good? Why? What does God resolve to do to as a solution?
2. God created woman as a *helper* *suitable* for man, a term which “signifies the woman’s essential contribution.”[[4]](#footnote-4) Kent Hughes describes the relationship like this: “The function of the helper would be complementary to the man’s… Male and female were created in the image of God (cf. 1:27). And as his matching opposite, she would supply what was lacking in him.”[[5]](#footnote-5) Together, man and woman are equipped to represent God faithfully.

How does God’s design allow humanity to better represent him? How have you benefitted from his good design?

Note: The meaning of the term *helper* is far from subservient. In fact, elsewhere in Scripture, God is described as the Helper of his people (Ex. 18:4; Deut. 33:7; 1 Sam. 7:12; Ps. 10:14; Ps. 27:9; Ps. 40:17; Ps. 118:7).

1. God officiated the first wedding ceremony in Genesis 2:24-25. What does marriage signify? How? (Eph. 5:22-33)

Hint: Make sure you look at Ephesians 5:22-33. God’s good design of a husband and wife in marriage helps us understand with greater clarity Christ’s love for his people.

1. How does God’s design for man and woman encourage/challenge you?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

1. R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word Commentary Series. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 57. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001), 85. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word Commentary Series. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 57. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001), 85. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word Commentary Series. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 58. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)