



I N T H E B E G I N N I N G

WEEK 3 DEVOTIONAL: RELATIONSHIP

# DAY 1

## A D A M & E V E

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.  
I will make a helper suitable for him."*

GENESIS 2:18

R E A D G E N E S I S 2 : 4 - 2 4

### Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) In this passage, we are told that man has several relationships. Who or what does man interact with and have a relationship with?
- 2) In Genesis 2:18-20, why does God create animals and birds? What conclusion does God come to about this creation and its effect upon man?
- 3) In this passage, what does Adam's interaction with God tell us about what our relationship with God should look like?
- 4) What does it tell us about God's intentions for how he wants us to live?

## DAY 2

# SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

*All Scripture is God-breathed...*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

### WHAT DO ADAM AND EVE TEACH US ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE?

God creates a beautiful garden in Genesis 1 and 2 and God fills the garden with all kinds of living things, including humans, God's very special creation. Like a Master Gardener, God creates a man in His image and breathes the breath of life into him (Genesis 2:7). Like an expert Potter, God animates His crowning achievement made from dirt by breathing into him the breath of life. ("Adam" means "dirt.") The other creatures do not have this special characteristic--only Adam (and later Eve).

God's creation is good--but everything is not good. "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Even before the snake slithers onto the scene, there is a problem in Eden. Notice that God identifies and solves the problem before Adam voices a concern. God is trinity. God enjoys eternal fellowship with the other members of the trinity. Adam, who is made in the image of God, does not yet have other creatures like him with whom he can be in fellowship--and that was "not good." God takes action to solve this problem. Notice that God makes two attempts before he finds a satisfactory solution. First God made animals as companions for Adam, but Adam did not find any to be a suitable helper (Genesis 2:19-20). So, God made woman.

The first human words recorded in Scripture are spoken by Adam when he sees woman. Look at the words in your Bible. Genesis 2 is prose, but when Adam speaks, he speaks in poetry, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man" (Genesis 2:23). Because she is made from Adam's rib, Eve is created from material that has the breath of life and like Adam, she is distinguished from the other creatures of the garden. Adam is overjoyed by this creation whom God brings to him. Notice that Adam almost repeats himself by saying "bone of my bone" AND "flesh of my flesh." The doubling communicates Adam's ecstatic appreciation of the woman. Have you ever watched the face of a groom when he sees his bride walk down the aisle? Perhaps Adam felt the same way when he saw woman. Genesis 2 shows us that sexual attraction was created by God and originated in Eden. It is

Adam names the new creature "woman." He sees her unique characteristics and begins to form a special relationship with her. She will not receive her personal name, Eve, until the next chapter (Genesis 3:20). In Genesis 2, she is "woman." The Hebrew word for "woman" is "issah," a word that is very similar to the Hebrew word for man ("is"). The name "issah" suggests that Adam recognizes that woman is "the part of me that is missing." The names "is" and "issah" suggest that both male and female are needed because only when male and female are together do we see the fullness of humanity. (This truth is not limited to the marriage relationship and refers to the presence of man and woman in the created world. It is an unreasonable stretch to interpret Genesis 2 as an argument that all people should be married. However, Genesis 2 does provide an argument against gender-based abortion or killing because both male and female have God's breath of life.)

Woman is a "suitable helper" for Adam. What does that mean? This label has been used to subordinate women, but the Hebrew words for "suitable helper" convey a beautiful partnership between man and woman, not a hierarchical relationship based on male dominance. The Hebrew word "suitable" refers to "opposition." God created woman to be a helper who supports through opposition. The differentness of the woman is for the good of the man. Because she is different, the woman is to "push against" the man for the good of the man. (That sentence should create some conversation in your Life Group!) Genesis does not teach blind submission. Genesis teaches that man and woman were created to enjoy one another, to delight in their differences, and to support one another.

## Q U E S T I O N S

1) God says it is not good for man to be alone. How have you experienced this to be true?

2) In what ways do you see woman as a "suitable helper" to man? Can you think of ways in which women "push against" men for their good? (This is a serious question, not a joke!)

3) Genesis 2 shows us that God intended man and woman to delight in each other. What do you appreciate about the other gender?

DAY 3

" R E M A I N I N M E "

*I've loved you the way my Father has loved me.  
Make yourselves at home in my love.*

JOHN 15:9

R E A D J O H N 1 5 : 1 - 1 7

Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) In this passage, spoken to his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus speaks about our relationship with Him and with each other. What good will occur if we remain in relationship with Christ? What will happen if we drift apart from Him?
- 2) How does the imagery of a vine or tree help to illustrate how our relationship with Jesus is supposed to work? Explain.
- 3) What is Jesus' commandment for us? (Verses 12 & 17)
- 4) Can we draw a connection between this commandment and the fruit Jesus wishes us to bear? What can we do that will best bear fruit?
- 5) What steps can you take to "love one another" today?

DAY 4

" T W O   A R E   B E T T E R  
T H A N   O N E "

*Two people are better off than one,  
for they can help each other succeed.*

ECCLESIASTES 4:9

R E A D   E C C L E S I A S T E S   4 : 7 - 1 2

Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) What does the writer of Ecclesiastes (Solomon) determine is "meaningless?"
- 2) What does he determine is of great value? Why?
- 3) How is this need for relationship reflected in the Genesis story? (Gen 2:18-24)
- 4) What relationships in your life reflect the imagery of Ecclesiastes 4? In what ways are you still longing for this type of relationship?

# B O N U S

## " L E T U S L O V E O N E A N O T H E R "

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

1 JOHN 4:7

R E A D 1 J O H N 4 : 7 - 1 2 , 1 5

### Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) In 1 John, what model is there for how we should love?
- 2) Where does love come from? (Verse 7)
- 3) What happens when we love others? (Verse 12)
- 4) The passage in 1 John 4 can be confusing. Think of it like a circle. Our love comes from God—He is the source of our love. But when we love, God lives more completely within us. Can you draw a circular diagram to show how these two ideas work together?
- 5) How is loving God and loving man actually the same action?



DAY 5

G O I N G D E E P E R

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.*

PSALM 139:1

R E A D P S A L M 1 3 9 : 1 - 1 8

Q U E S T I O N S

1) Read it slowly, taking in each verse as if you were praying the words intentionally and audibly to your Father in Heaven. What stands out to you? What emotions are stirred within you?

2) What does this passage communicate about the type of relationship that God desires to have with each of us?

3) How could a daily prayer of remembrance and intimacy, like Psalm 139, change your relationship and your daily walk with God? How might it change your interactions and relationships with others?

4) Memorize or write down verse 1. Pray it throughout the day.

F O R G R O U P S

## Q U E S T I O N S

1) Our focus this week was on relationships. When you consider the health of your relationships right now, what relationship could use the most attention? Your relationship with God? With a friend or family member?

2) How did studying Genesis 2 change how you think about the relationship between men and women? Between humans and God?

3) What impressed you about God as you read the Scripture passages?