

Small Group Materials (Genesis 2)

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

Study Summary: In this study we will be looking at two accounts of creation in Genesis 2, the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve. In each section we'll look at the relationships that exist between God and His creation. First we'll look at God's relationship to the individual. Second we'll talk about the way this relationship affects and is affected by community.

Creation of Adam

Ask the Group: When was a time you felt like you were doing what you were created to do?

- **Ask the Group:** How was your response to that task/situation different from other types?
Leaders Note: This can touch on aspects of attitude, sense of fulfillment/heart condition, things just "clicking", etc.

Read passage out loud as a group. Option: Give group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

Genesis 2:7-17 (NIV)

7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Discussion Questions

Ask the Group: For most of creation, God merely speaks and creation springs into existence. But with man, God has a more intimate role. God forms man out of dirt and breathes into him. Why is it significant that God creates man differently?

Possible Answers: Man is the pinnacle of God's creation—His "masterpiece;" it shows the level of

intimacy God has with humanity; further emphasizes that we are made in His image and our unique relationship with Him.

Possible Transition: God continues this level of intimacy with Adam throughout his time in the garden.

- **Ask the Group:** When do you feel most connected with God?
- **Ask the Group:** The Gospel allows us to have intimacy with God outside of the Garden. How can you pursue intimacy with Christ on a daily basis?

Ask the Group: What type of work do you have in your life?

Ask the Group: Verse 15 tells us that God placed Adam in the garden to work and take care of it. What does the fact that Adam was commanded to work before the fall tell us about work?

Possible Answers: That it was part of God's plan; that it is a good thing; that it glorifies God; that it is part of humanity's purpose.

- **Ask the Group:** How does this shape or compare with your own attitude towards work?
Leaders Note: "Work" by this definition goes beyond regular employment; this could also encompass school, chores, or whatever tasks are set before us.

Creation of Eve

Read passage out loud as a group. Option: Give group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

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

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Discussion Questions

Ask the Group: Can you think of a time in your life where you felt alone? What are some of the emotions

you experience when you feel alone?

Possible Answers: Sadness, low-self worth, disconnected.

Ask the Group: It is striking that God creates His world, calls it good, and then recognizes that it is not complete because it is “not good for man to be alone.” Why is it better for man to be in community?

Possible Answers: Provides support, love, affirmation, accountability, and because God Himself exists in community.

- **Ask the Group:** How is community a reflection of God’s nature?

Possible Answer: Triune (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Community draws us closer to Christ, see Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 12:5

Tell the Group: The very first relationship created by God is the husband-wife relationship. Eve is called Adam’s helper, but the original Hebrew word for helper has a richer definition. Recently R. David Freedman has pointed out that the Hebrew word ezer is a combination of two roots: `z-r, meaning “to rescue, to save,” and g-z-r, meaning “to be strong.” This word ezer is used elsewhere in the OT to refer to military reinforcement and, more strikingly, God Himself.

Ask the Group: If God can be described as an ezer for humanity, then how should we think of woman as an ezer for man?

Possible Answers: She provides consistent strength and support for the relationship. She is the “mama bear” who will fight to the end and hold on tightly.

- **Ask the Group:** In a marriage, husband and wife become one. Since a couple does not literally merge into one being, what does Adam mean when he says they will become “one flesh?”

Possible Answers: They will be united in all ways—spiritually, emotionally, physically.

Ask the Group: How do you think it was possible for Adam and Eve to be naked and feel no shame?

Possible Answer: They were not aware of each other’s nakedness because they were distracted by God’s holiness.

Ask the Group: In perfect community we would feel no shame. Sin has destroyed this freedom, but how can we foster a safe and shame-free community?

Possible Answers: Responding with love and patience to others’ vulnerability; refraining from judgment; lovingly steering people back to the Gospel when they’ve gone awry.

Ask the Group: What is our community application of this passage?

Leaders’ Note: You may choose to create your own application question as a group based on your discussion, or highlight a question from this study.