

Small Group Handout - Genesis 2

Creation of Adam

When was a time you felt like you were doing what you were created to do?

- How was your response to that task/situation different from other types?

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.”

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?

When do you feel most connected with God?

- The Gospel allows us to have intimacy with God outside of the Garden. How can you pursue intimacy with Christ on a daily basis?

What type of work do you have in your life?

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?

- How does this shape or compare with your own attitude towards work?

Creation of Eve

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.

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?

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?

- How is community a reflection of God's nature?

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

- 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?"

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

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

What is our community application of this passage?