HIGHLIGHT: Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” 19 The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken from man.

24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

EXPLAIN

Leaders: Feel free to use any of the “Explain” materials to guide discussion as it is needed or to expound on a certain area of the text as it comes up during your Life Group time, but the purpose of this section is to deepen your own personal understanding of the Word. Your members have access to all of this material as well.

In this section, we see a picture of what God’s design for marriage is: two people who have been joined by God to complete each other and become one flesh. In this kind of union, utmost trust is cultivated, shame is thrown out the window, and unity with both each other and with God is nourished.

wv.18-19  "It is not good" is first used here, after an entire chapter's worth of "And God saw that it was good" just before it. Perhaps God used Adam's work of naming the animals He brought before him to instill in him, even if it was just subconsciously, the desire for someone like him, the way it seemed that the animals had other animals like them.
“No helper was found corresponding to him” is not a reflection on God’s inability to provide for Adam’s need. This was not a moment when God saw that He’d made a fatal error in only making one man. Rather, He’d given Adam something of Himself. Adam bore God’s very image—he had a capacity to consider himself in light of his surroundings, to deduce, to long for something he’d been made for, even if he didn’t know what it was. Adam didn’t need a wife because he needed something to subdue; he needed a wife because he was missing that other element from God’s nature. God has no gender, no body, no lacking characteristics; everywhere else in nature, though, we see differences in the way males and females think, behave, and interact with their surroundings. Adam, by himself, was incomplete the same way that Eve, if she had been created first, would have been incomplete. Moses takes pains to explain this in a way that would highlight the need that husbands and wives have for one another.

When Adam realizes what God has given him, he responds with poetry, which is heightened language used to express overwhelming emotion. “At last” shows that Adam had some recognition of his incompleteness and that woman represented what he was missing. This verse also underscores that woman is like man (bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh) and is not like man (“she was taken from man”).

Moses offered this commentary on the history in order to explain to his audience why God’s people obeyed different marriage customs than the people they were traveling around. Being surrounded by pagan people with foreign traditions might have made some of those customs appealing to the Israelites wandering through the desert, but Moses was explaining that they do things differently because they were following God’s design. In the same way, we face many different opinions about what constitutes marriage and even gender in today's society—this is nothing new in the history of the world. But if someone is seeking a biblical, Christ-centered marriage, they look to the way God designed marriage to function: one man, one woman, coming together to be one flesh.

**APPLY**

_Your Leader Guide will have material that the member guides do not have. The bolded material is what the people in your group will have, the other material is only for you to help guide discussion._

_This guide can be as strict a script or as general a resource as the leader needs it to be._

1. **What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?**

2. **Eve was created to be a “helper” for Adam. How have you seen people misinterpret this word “helper”? How do passages like Psalm 121 help you understand what a “helper” is? What does it mean to you that Eve was Adam’s “helper”?**

Over the years, too many have misinterpreted the marriage relationship as one of inequality—a primary role and a subservient one. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. When we see “helper” used elsewhere in Scripture, it’s _never_ a subservient role, and is often linked with God, Himself. The picture here is not of two tiers of leadership, but of one relationship with two equal partners. One exists to complete the other.
3. Leaving the father and mother is not so much a physical separation but a spiritual one—a husband’s first loyalty is to his wife, and her first priority is to her husband. For some, the primary influence someone needs to leave might not be a set of parents. What are other influences or priorities a couple needs to leave in order to cleave unto each other? When have you seen someone in a marriage have a priority other than their spouse?

An enormous number of influences attempt to dictate what a husband and wife’s relationship should look like. Some compare their relationship with the idealized ones projected on Social Media. Some never leave the influence of their parents and allow themselves to be joined as one with their spouse. Some try to model their relationships on celebrity couples. A Christ-centered marriage has two equal partners coming together and, together, submitting to Jesus’ leadership. As they grow closer to each other and closer to the Lord, the three of them grow toward one another. This can only happen when each spouse has only two priorities: the other spouse and growing in their relationship with Christ.

4. What does it mean that a husband and wife become “one flesh”? How is being “one flesh” more than just physical?

Marriage is not a competition, in which one partner tries to get ahead of the other. A husband will put his wife’s needs above his own. A wife will do the same for her husband. They do this because the couple is a single unit—when one of them succeeds, they both succeed. When one of them fails, they both do.

5. What needs to be in place in a marriage relationship for both to live “naked and unashamed” before each other? What does it look like to have nothing to hide, no embarrassment before each other, and no secrets between each other?

RESPOND

Take a few moments to respond:

- If you are unmarried, what can you do right now to prepare for the day the Lord may bring someone into your life to marry?
- If you are married, what is one way you can put your spouse’s needs above your own this week?

Encourage one another through email, text messages, or coffee dates throughout the week to build up and encourage each other.