

#2 - Man and Woman - Genesis 2:4-2:25

Engage:

- Take note of what was said in the last meeting that will help lead to the discussion of this text.
- Genesis 1 was an overview of the progress of creation. Genesis 2 is zoom-lens look at day six. The “details” are given of how those created in the image and likeness of God were created (man from the dust of the ground and woman from the rib of man). The “stage is set, the characters are in place, the drama can begin.”
- Remember: Happy is he/she who makes daily progress and considers not what he/she did yesterday, but what advance he/she can make today. You are entering into an opportunity to do something everyone should do in life - gain an overview understanding of God’s Redemptive Story. It is like reading a “35 page book” – you do it one page at a time. Before you know it, you will have the personal joy of not only having completed this adventure – but you will see that you have grown spiritually in leaps and bounds!

Any worthwhile project is completed in small stages! One page, one step, one bite might not seem like much when compared to the whole, but each brings you closer to your goal.

Thoughts about the story:

v. 5 - No rain, “but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground”

v. 6 - The Lord God created man. He became a living being.

- Thought - Just because God created man from the dust of the earth doesn’t mean that we should treat one another like dirt.

v. 9 - God planted trees in the garden of Eden. Two of those trees were the “tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Note: Jesus promised the church that those who overcome (pres act part) will eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7). The tree of life will reappear in the new heaven and new earth. See Revelation 22:1-2, 19. Thus the tree of life is very much a part of the redemptive plan of God, much like Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:23-25) and the Water of Life (John 4:13-14).

vv. 10-14 - The four rivers. They identify the location of the garden.

v. 15 - God gives man the responsibility of working and taking care of the garden.

Note: This reminds us of a similar statement that is made about the new heavens and new earth - “His servants will serve Him” (Revelation 22:3). The word translated “serve” indicates that we will be busy and not bored!

vv. 16-17 - Man was told that he could eat of every tree in the garden except one – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said that death would result if man did. Part of the punishment included being forced out of the garden of Eden (and away from the tree of life).

Note: There is no reason given as to why man was to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But it is evident that God given human freedom and choice has boundaries in which we must chose in life. The punishment of death is clear as to the result of disobeying God's command.

There are several different thoughts given about the significance of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One person suggests that by not eating of this tree, man could only know sin as God knows it. But when man ate of this tree, he then began to know sin as Satan knows it. Thus a choice is made as to which kind of relational environment we want to live in – one that chooses self (selfishness) or one that chooses fellowship with God. We have the same choice to make.

v. 18 - The Lord God knew that man was made to not be alone. He said that He would make “a helper suitable for him.”

vv. 19-20 - Part of the responsibility given to man was to name all of the “beasts of the field” and the “birds of the air.”

vv. 21-23 - God performed surgery on Adam by taking a rib from Adam's side and made woman. Adam 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.”

Note: She was not made “out of his head to rule over him, nor out his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.” (Matthew Henry)

v. 24 - The first marriage: **leave** father and mother (leave), **be united** to his wife (weave) and **become one** flesh (cleave). The original design for marriage will always be the model that brings the joy that God originally designed.

Note: The original design was one man and one woman in marriage till death. When sin became part of the human experience, the original design was challenged – and will be until Jesus returns. We must understand that when divorce occurs, it is not the unpardonable sin. Even though forgiveness can be received, there will always be scars that remain until we get to heaven.

Note: Scriptures about divorce – Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Scripture about marriage: Ephesians 5:22-33

v. 25 - Even though they were both naked, there was no shame because sin had not yet been their experience.

Note: At this point, everything is in a perfect state of harmony – but . . . C. C. Crawford said: “God's Plan of Redemption is an integral part of His whole Cosmic Plan of Creation, and that Creation will not be complete until the righteous stand in the Judgment, clothed in glory and honor and immortality, redeemed in spirit and soul and body.

Remember: It is always okay to pray for and seek out people to join your group or one of the other groups!!! Pray that God will richly bless our labor of love!

Adam and Eve

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-
5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground- 7 the LORD God formed the 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 And 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 Asshur. 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 of it you will surely die."

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 beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. 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 of the air and all the beasts of the field.

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 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 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

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

