

a beautiful design

WEEK 6

INCOMPLETE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the study guide in your Home Group, be sure to work through the questions on your own before you meet. If your Home Group doesn't meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series. For further study, explore the Recommended Resources on our website.

RECAP: The beauty of the gospel is that it is for all of humanity. The gospel invades the dark spaces of our lives and drives the darkness away. While the grace of God in salvation is the same for men and women, because of the unique ways that sin bends the hearts of men, the gospel has distinct applications and results in the lives of men. The gospel is the antidote to the way that sin has led men to embrace selfish passivity or selfish aggression. Although man repeatedly struggles with sin, the cleansing power of the gospel erases all past, present and future failures. Man and his purposes are redeemed through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 2:18-25

SUMMARY: In Genesis 2, God creates man and then declares that it is not good for man to be alone. Out of man, God creates woman to complete the picture of Creation. Man and woman are intended to live and flourish together. While Genesis 2 demonstrates how man and woman are to live and flourish together in marriage, the partnership between men and women is not limited to marriage. Without the fellowship and labor of men and women together, the home and the church will operate in a way that goes against God's beautiful design for the world. Human beings aren't meant to live in isolation; we were created for community. The commissioning of men and women involves tasks that require both genders.

GETTING STARTED

What's one of your favorite movies? How does it depict the relationship between men and women?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What are some healthy opportunities for men and women to work together?
2. It is not good for man to be alone, so God creates a counterpart to Adam. Does anything else in the Creation account have a counterpart? Why couldn't any of the other creatures serve as Adam's partner?
3. Marriage is a gift from God. The union of Adam and Eve tells the story of how man and woman are different enough yet similar enough to be joined together. Where do you see your spouse as different? Where do you see your spouse as similar?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9. Singleness is a gift from God. How should single men and single women hear God's Word, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him"? Is marriage the only answer? Why or why not?
5. Can you think of a situation in the Bible where a man and a woman who were not married worked together for God's glory? (Consider: Judges 4:1-10; Acts 16:11-15)
6. Consider the Trinity: three Persons in one substance, unity in diversity. What part of being created in the image of our Trinitarian God would lead humanity to have a need for community?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Make time this week to sit down with your family and read Genesis 2:18-25. Talk about how men and women can work together in ways that make the world a better place. Ask your kids who their favorite friend/person of the other gender is. What do they like about being friends with him/her? How is that friendship different than one with a person of their gender? How is it the same? Ask them how men and women working together can help our homes, our churches and our countries. How might our homes, churches and countries be worse off if men and women don't work together?

MOMENTS: Look for examples of men and women working together that you can point to throughout the week: the President and the First Lady, the anchors on the evening news, two teachers at your child's school, the men and women at church. Talk about the beauty of having both genders represented in those environments.

MILESTONES: Consider how you will mark the milestone of marriage for your child. What encouragement do you plan to give? What item do you plan to pass on to celebrate this milestone?

In the weeks dealing with men and women particularly, it may be helpful to break up into gender-specific groups. On the other hand, groups of single men or women may consider pairing up with a group of the opposite gender. While this isn't necessary for fruitful discussion, each group's leaders should consider what method of discussion would be best for their group.

FOR MEN

1. Who has been the most influential woman in your life?
2. What is one way your life would be less full apart from the presence of godly women?
3. What fears keep you from seeking out the partnership of women?
4. Have you found it difficult to respect women's contributions or their vital role in leading, cultivating and serving? Why or why not?

FOR WOMEN

1. Who has been the most influential man in your life?
2. What is one way your life would be less full apart from the presence of godly men?
3. What fears keep you from seeking out the partnership of men?
4. Have you found it difficult to respect men's contributions or their vital role in leading, cultivating and serving? Why or why not?

NEXT STEPS

1. Read and reflect on Genesis 2:18-25 and prepare your heart for the next sermon, "Woman's Purpose."
2. How can the men and women in your Home Group better reflect God's design by working together? Brainstorm ideas of ways you can use your unique gifts to care for and serve others. If you are a men's or women's group, brainstorm ways to work together with a group of the opposite gender.
3. As we prepare to consider women's purpose next Sunday, do some research on one of these women: Phillis Wheatley, Katharina von Bora or Corrie Ten Boom.
4. Commit to memorizing the following verse this week:

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." **Genesis 2:18***