

God of Our Fathers: Genesis

Lesson 2: Adam and Eve

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Lesson 2: Adam and Eve

Lesson Introduction

- Describe your thoughts about the institution of marriage.
- What is your understanding about humans and their relationship with other living beings?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, learners will:

- Explore relationships among living things
- Identify the major differences between the two accounts of how females were created
- Describe how the creation stories relate to male/female relationships
- Express understanding of who God is

Background for the Scripture

Up to this point in the Creation story, everything God has done was declared to be “good.” However, in Genesis 2:18, the second creation account, God determines that it is not good for man to be alone. And so, a helper for the man is made from Adam’s rib, according to the second creation account.

As you read the two accounts of how females were created (Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:21-22), note the differences in the accounts and try to identify major themes and patterns in each story. Try to draw generalizations about the intellect of humankind, power relationships, human relationships, and marriage. Be ready to compare and contrast what occurred in the Garden to human situations and characteristics in the present day.

Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

¹⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Examining the Scripture

1. What does Adam's naming of the animals indicate about his intellect and ability?
2. What does this scripture suggest about humans and their relationships with other living things?
3. Compare the two accounts of how females were created (Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:21-22). What are the major differences in the accounts? What are the basic themes in these two accounts?
4. Discuss the implications of verse 25: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Applying the Scripture

Sabbath Rest

On the seventh day God rested. We might look upon this as an indication that recovery and restoration are essential components for sustained life. Although the mind, body, and spirit are linked in complex ways, restoration could simply mean giving our bodies time to replenish through sleep, play, amusement, or relaxation (Reed, 2009). Vitality, tranquility, and peacefulness might just be the result.

Marriage and Family

As you think about how this scripture pertains to marriage, consider these questions: How are modern-day ideas about the institution of marriage the same as those implied during the creation? How do ideas about marriage differ today? Your answers will vary, of course, but some of the ideas below may emerge from your discussion and reflection:

- In the eyes of the church, marriage is a sacred covenant.
- Civil unions are different from the sacred institution of marriage.
- Although Jesus did not condone divorce, Moses allowed it.
- Marriage is about mutual respect in the relationship.
- The institution of marriage was part of God's original plan.

Quest to Know God Activity

1. Think about places in creation where you have encountered God's presence. Describe the place. How were you affected?
2. What does this scriptural account reveal about God?
3. List two or three characteristics you discerned about God as you went through this lesson.
4. What statement can you make about the God of our fathers that you can pass down to future generations?