

# Lesson 2 | September 11, 2022

## God Made Husband and Wife

**Study Text:** Genesis 2:4–25

**Central Truth:** Marriage, ordained of God, is between one man and one woman.

**Key Verse: Mark 10:6–7**

From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife ( (KJV).

“But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation. ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife’” (NLT).

### Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to explain how God created woman and ordained marriage, and established Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- Students will be encouraged to value and preserve marriage as God instituted it, and reject society’s perversions which oppose it.
- Students will be challenged to maintain high standards in marriage and other relationships.

## Introducing the Study

**Say:** The very first relationship God created after His own relationship with humanity was between man and woman. God created the second human being directly from the first for the express purpose of providing a relationship for the man He had created. At the very beginning of human history, He demonstrated that relationships were at the center of our lives—not only the marriage relationship, but family relationships in general, other human relationships, and our relationship with Him as our Creator.

### Opening Activity—Against the Current

**Ask.** What are some of the false ideas about marriage that are promoted through movies, television, the Internet, and social media? Why is it important to study God’s Word to discover His plan and priorities for marriage? In His image.  
<https://inhisimage.movie>.

**Say:** God’s creation, including marriage, is very good. However, Satan opposes God’s plan and works against biblical marriage, attempting to challenge, weaken, and destroy it, making it necessary for believers to work to protect marriage as God created it. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

What makes human beings feel secure? What gives them a sense of belonging? The variety of trees God placed in the Garden gave Adam and Eve all the nutrition they needed. God walking among them gave them the divine Presence in a way humans

would not see again until the ministry of Jesus Christ. And God gave Adam and Eve one another and instituted marriage and the family as another way for them to enjoy one another and to glorify Him.

## **Part 1—Man Placed in Eden**

### **Earth Before Adam**

Genesis 2:4–6

**[Gen 2:4-6 KJV] 4 These [are] the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and [there was] not a man to till the ground. 6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.**

**Say:** God’s creation reflected His sovereign planning and oversight. By His plan, Adam was to be instrumental in caring for plant life and helping it reach its full potential in this new world. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**The Bible’s account of the creation of the heavens and the earth is accurate and important; it relates directly to its account of humankind and God’s relationship with His creation. Earth was created for humankind—a place of joyful habitation and service to God. And humankind was created for earth—to “cultivate the soil” (Genesis 2:5, NLT). The earth and the people who dwell therein have a mutual relationship and purpose.**

**Before Adam, the potential for vegetative life had not been realized. God chose to use people to cultivate the soil as the plant life grew and developed. Also, it had not rained on the new world as yet; rather, moisture in the soil came from “springs” (verse 6, NLT) or a periodic “mist” (KJV) that watered the ground.**

#### ***Discuss***

? Imagine with your students how the earth would have appeared before it was cultivated by humans.

? What can God’s plan to employ Adam from the beginning tell us about His desire to work with those He has created?

## **Adam From Earth**

Genesis 2:7–8

**[Gen 2:7-8 KJV] 7 And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.**

**Say:** We see God's caring, personal involvement as He creates human beings, and as He prepares a place for them to live. He still cares for people in a personal, individual way. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Genesis 2:7 reveals both similarities and disparities when God created Adam and when He created other living things. **God's action in which He "formed" Adam is described with the same Hebrew word as His formation of animals and birds in verse 19 (NLT). The raw material He used—the "ground"— is also the same (1:24; 2:7, NLT). While the same Hebrew word is used for forming man in verse 7 and for bringing forth animals in 1:24, creating Adam was quite different from that of animals. No other living creature received God's personal touch in the way Adam did when God breathed "the breath of life" into his nostrils (Genesis 2:7, NLT). Job 33:4 describes God's creative and sustaining work toward people this way: "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life" (NLT). Further, the vision of Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones emphasizes the life-giving power of God's breath, or Spirit (Ezekiel 37:9–10).**

God planted a garden—likely on the third day of creation—for Adam (Genesis 2:8; and later Eve, see verse 22). He did so in a region of Mesopotamia called "Eden," a Hebrew word for happiness or delight. Adam was safe and had food in the Garden where God placed him—needing neither clothing to wear nor a house to live in.

### ***Discuss***

? What does God's special action in creating human beings tell us about His desire for a relationship with us?

? Why do you think God planted a special garden for Adam and Eve?

## **Part 2—Man Alone in Eden Prepared for Habitation**

Genesis 2:9–14

**[Gen 2:9-14 KJV] 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11 The name of the first [is] Pison: that [is] it which compasseth the whole**

**land of Havilah, where [there is] gold; 12 And the gold of that land [is] good: there [is] bdellium and the onyx stone. 13 And the name of the second river [is] Gihon: the same [is] it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14 And the name of the third river [is] Hiddekel: that [is] it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river [is] Euphrates.**

**Say:** God meets our need not only for physical nutrition, but also for beauty to behold in the natural world. Even though much of the beauty of creation has been destroyed by humanity, we can still experience time with Him as we observe the mountains, the ocean, or other natural beauty. Our response to Him should be not only wonder and thankfulness, but also obedience to His commandments. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**God meets the needs of His people, and has since the very beginning. He prepared a variety of trees for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden with fruit that was both pleasant to the taste and nutritious for their bodies (Genesis 2:9). But God’s love for people extends beyond just the needs of survival. The trees were also “pleasant to the sight,” the first thing in the Bible to be described in this way (verse 9, KJV). First Timothy 6:17 tells us: “God . . . giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (KJV), and the wonders of the physical creation witness to every human being about God’s “invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature” (Romans 1:20, NLT).**

#### **Resource Packet Item 1: God Gives Us What We Need**

Distribute the work sheet and allow time to look up the passages and complete. Ask class members to briefly testify of a time when God gave exactly what they needed.

In the middle of the Garden—a place of prominence—God placed two special trees. The tree of life bore fruit which carried the power of physical renewal; if consumed, it gave the power to live forever (Genesis 3:22). This tree appears also in the Book of Revelation, where its fruit is a reward for the victorious, and its leaves make possible the healing of the nations (Revelation 2:7; 22:2).

The other tree in the middle of the Garden was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve, in their original state, did not have this knowledge, but would acquire it—and the consequences that accompanied it. The location of these two trees would become their place of decision, with its effects being experienced around the world ever since.

The river watering the Garden was divided into four branches (Genesis 2:10). The Pishon, meaning “the full flowing,” flowed around a land called “Havilah” (verse 11). There appears to be more than one country by this name; this one was most likely in southwest Arabia. It was known for its fine gold, “aromatic resin [a scented gum], and onyx stone” (verse 12, NLT).

The second branch was the Gihon, meaning “the river that bursts forth” (verse 13). It flowed around Cush, the southern half of Arabia.

The third branch was the swift-flowing Tigris—from a Persian word meaning “arrow” (verse 14). It flowed east of Asshur, an ancient capital city of Assyria.

The fourth branch, the Euphrates, is often called simply “the river,” as in 1 Kings 4:21,24 (KJV). This river seems to have been highly regarded by the ancient Israelites. The changes brought about by the flood of Noah’s time, as well as by earthquakes, make determining the original location of these rivers difficult.

### ***Discuss***

? What are some natural wonders that God has given us to enjoy with sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch?

? God could have hidden the tree of knowledge. Why do you think He allowed access to it?

## **A Purpose and a Prohibition**

Genesis 2:15–17

**[Gen 2:15-17 KJV] 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

**Say:** God fills our lives with opportunities to glorify Him through service. He assigned Adam the care of His earthly creation. God also provided a law and consequences if the law was broken. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**Adam’s original assignment was twofold: First, he was to cultivate the soil, and to tend and prune the trees (Genesis 2:15). Second, he was to watch over, or keep the garden; this may suggest guarding it from grazing animals or even the activity of Satan (see Genesis 3:1).**

God generously gave Adam (and later Eve) the abundant supply of fruit from “every tree” in Eden, except one (Genesis 2:16). **The only exception was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which they were forbidden to eat from. God gave great provision and opportunity to Adam (and Eve), making their decision to disobey Him all the more tragic, as their sin stood out against the contrast of His goodness.**

**God had the right as Creator and Sustainer to declare law and to determine the consequences for breaking that law. The result of eating from the tree of knowledge, as God had warned, was that human beings would “surely die” (verse 17, KJV). Spiritual death would be immediate, as confidence before God was replaced by fear. Physical death would happen with time, to all who sinned and were blocked from access to the tree of life.**

### ***Discuss***

? Question ? What is the only cure for sin and the spiritual and physical destruction it brings?

? Why did God choose spiritual and physical death as the punishment for eating from the tree of knowledge??

## **Part 3—Man and Woman in Eden Adam Is Uniquely Occupied**

Genesis 2:18–20

**[Gen 2:18-20 KJV] 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.**

**Say:** God bestowed a great honor on Adam by calling him to name His animal creation. God could have reserved this right for himself, but enlisted the involvement of the man He had made in His image, foreshadowing His desire to work with His obedient people throughout history. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**God declared that it was “not good” (Genesis 2:18, NLT) for Adam to be alone. Although Adam was “very good,” (1:31, KJV) like the rest of God’s creation, he was not complete. He needed a suitable helper, someone to provide companionship, assistance, and the complementary physiology for producing offspring together.**

**Adam’s first assigned task beyond caring for the Garden was to name all the animals that God had created (Genesis 2:19–20). As their Creator, God was able to draw them to Adam as He would later draw them to Noah for preservation on the ark (6:20). The honor of naming God’s creation also confirmed humanity’s God-given authority to govern other life forms (see 1:28).**

**Adam's ability to name all the various species displayed his intellectual capacity. He observed each one, considering their characteristics and behavior, and gave them names fitting. There is no recorded dialogue here between God and Adam, but this is the first example of Adam's use of the power of speech.**

### **Resource Packet Item 2: We Speak to God**

Distribute the work sheet and allow time to look up the passages and match up the answers. Discuss the importance of developing one's prayer life by learning and practicing the various kinds of prayer.

None of the creatures that passed before Adam could serve as a suitable helper for him (2:20). As he saw male and female of various animals, Adam likely felt the need for a companion like himself—human, made in God's own image (1:26–27). Male and female of all other animals, birds, and fish were created at the same time, but God had a unique plan for creating the human female, to draw together and unify man and woman in a way unseen in the rest of His creatures.

### ***Discuss***

? Question ? Adam was the first human to witness the wonders of the animal kingdom. As he named them, what observations may Adam have expressed to God?

? Discuss the possibility that part of God's purpose in Adam naming the animals was to alert Adam of his need of a mate.?

## **Two of a Kind**

Genesis 2:21–25

**[Gen 2:21-25 KJV] 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.**

**Say:** God, in an act unique in His creative work, made woman from a part taken from man, creating marriage. The apostle Paul uses this powerful between man and woman to illustrate the relationship between Jesus Christ and His church. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

God's plan for creating woman began with putting the man into a "deep sleep" (Genesis 2:21, NLT)—which some have interpreted as a trance or vision-like state. The word

translated “rib” in most Bible versions is elsewhere translated as “side” or “flank.” God did not form the woman directly from the earth, as He did the man, but directly from living tissue from the man (verse 22).

**In an act which instituted human marriage, God brought His completed work to the man. Adam’s exclamation—“At last” (verse 23, NLT)—comes after he had named a seemingly endless procession of living creatures, but found none like him, none to complete him.** Made of his own substance, she was like him physically, mentally, and spiritually—qualified in every way to be his mate. Her origins caused the man to designate her as “woman”—taken from “man.” He later honored his wife by calling her Eve, “because she would be the mother of all who live” (3:20, NLT).

**The vital connection of man and woman from the days of creation is the foundation of marriage. Three aspects of marriage are listed in Genesis 2:24. First, a man leaves his family of origin; he does not abandon them, but will establish a new family. Second, he will be joined to a woman who will experience his affection, care, and faithfulness, for life. Third, the man and the woman will be “one flesh” (verse 24, KJV), reuniting what was divided when woman was taken from man. The apostle Paul used this bond between husband and wife to illustrate the bond between Jesus Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22–33).**

### **Resource Packet Item 3: An Earthly Reflection**

Distribute the work sheet and, after students complete it, discuss the importance of marriage as a symbol of our relationship with Jesus Christ..

Jesus quoted Genesis 2:24, which He recognized as spoken by God, as both the foundation of marriage and the prohibition for divorce (Matthew 19:4–6). Marriage is more than the coming together of a man and a woman. They are joined by the God who created them, a joining that must not be dissolved by the man, the woman, or any other person.

Adam and Eve, in a state of sinless innocence, lived in Eden with neither knowledge nor shame of their nakedness (Genesis 2:25). No wonder God declared His creation as “very good” before He rested on the seventh day (see verse 2).

### ***Discuss***

? Why did God create Eve from a part of Adam, instead of from dust?

? Jesus goes back to the beginning to speak about God’s plan for marriage. What does this teach us about the significance of what God did in Eden for the marriage relationship?

? How can believers work together in study, prayer, and personal support to oppose divorce, same-sex marriage, and other deviations from God’s great plan?

## **What Is God Saying to Us?**



**Say:** God meets every one of humanity's needs. He gave Adam and Eve a perfect place to live by planting a garden in paradise. He provided food for them through the trees in the garden, trees that also brought pleasure simply by their physical beauty. And God also provided companionship: By creating Adam first, God showed Adam his need for a companion like himself. Adam walked with God; but God wanted Adam to also enjoy the fellowship of someone made from his very flesh and bone. God continues to meet our need for companionship today, both by responding to our desire for relationship with Him, and by blessing the union of man and woman in marriage.

## **Living It Out**

### **Ministry in Action**

- Look for ways to strengthen your marriage and other family relationships.
- Examine your heart for unbiblical attitudes about marriage and ask God to help you reject them and replace them with the truth.
- Take time to pray for those whose marriages have ended due to adultery and other sin..

## **Daily Bible Readings**

### **Monday:**

A Wife for Isaac.

Genesis 24:58–67

**[Gen 24:58-67 KJV] 58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. 59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou [art] our sister, be thou [the mother] of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. 61 And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels [were] coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. 65 For she [had] said unto the servant, What man [is] this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant [had] said, It [is] my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. 67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's [death].**

**[Gen 24:58-67 NLT] 58 So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her. And she replied, "Yes, I will go." 59 So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham's servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her. 60 They gave her this blessing as she parted: "Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions! May your descendants be strong and conquer the cities of their enemies." 61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls mounted the camels and followed the man. So Abraham's servant took Rebekah and went on his way. 62**

Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahai-roi. 63 One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming. 64 When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. 65 "Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant. And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. 66 Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done. 67 And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

#### **Tuesday:**

A Wife for Joseph.  
Genesis 41:44–52

[Gen 41:44-52 NLT] 44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval." 45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. 46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt. 47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. 48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities. 49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure. 50 During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. 51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." 52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

#### **Wednesday:**

A Husband for Ruth.  
Ruth 4:13–17

[Rth 4:13-17 NLT] 13 So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. 14 Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. 15 May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!" 16 Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. 17 The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

### **Thursday:**

Jesus on Marriage.

Matthew 19:1–6

**[Mat 19:1-6 NLT] 1** When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went down to the region of Judea east of the Jordan River. **2** Large crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick. **3** Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?" **4** "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' **5** And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' **6** Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

### **Friday:**

The Apostle Paul on Marriage.

Ephesians 5:22–33

**[Eph 5:22-33 NLT] 22** For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24** As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. **25** For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26** to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. **27** He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28** In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29** No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30** And we are members of his body. **31** As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." **32** This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. **33** So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### **Saturday:**

The Apostle Peter on Marriage.

1 Peter 3:1–7

**[1Pe 3:1-7 NLT] 1** In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over **2** by observing your pure and reverent lives. **3** Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. **4** You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty

of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. 5 This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. 6 For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do. 7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.