

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Three: The Beginning of Family and Work Life – Genesis 2:4-25

Overview

- 1) Which phrase is repeated ten times in the book of Genesis? Who, or what, is presented each time (see Genesis 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1, 9; 37:2)? *“Toledot” translates to “this is the account of” or “these are the generations of.” The ten phrases present the accounts of the heavens and earth, Adam, Noah, the sons of Noah, Shem, Terah, Ishmael, Isaac, Esau, and Jacob.*
- 2) Read Genesis 2:4-25. “LORD” (Yahweh) is the personal name for God that was revealed to Moses (the writer of Genesis) at the time God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3:13-15; 6:2-3). Which verses in Genesis 2:4-25 use the name “LORD God” (note that this title did not appear in chapter 1)? *Verses 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 18, 19, 21, and 22 use the title “LORD God.”*
- 3) List ways in which Genesis 2:4-25 show God’s personal involvement with His creation. Then describe at least one way in which He has recently shown His personal involvement in your own life. *First, the LORD God **formed** the man (forming connotes purposeful shaping). He then **breathed** His own life into the man (God created man as a spiritual being and **breathed** spiritual and physical life into him). Third, the LORD God **planted** a garden in Eden. The garden did not develop naturally from the plant life God made; God personally planned this garden. Fourth, in verses 15-17, we find God personally speaking with the man. Fifth, the creation of the woman resulted from God’s personal observation that the man lacked fellowship with one of his own kind. Finally, the woman did not simply develop in a way God could have allowed by natural law, but God personally created her out of Adam’s body. Personal sharing*

Reread Genesis 2:4-14.

- 4) According to verse 7:
 - a) From what existing materials was the physical body of man created (see also Genesis 3:19, Psalm 103:14, and 1 Corinthians 15:47)? *Man was created from the dust of the ground.*
 - b) What unique, personal contact did God have with man upon his creation? *God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”*
- 5) Consider the description of Eden in verses 9-14.
 - a) What specific items are mentioned in verse 9 as having been in the Garden of Eden? *Verse 9 says God put all kinds of trees (those pleasing to the eye and good for food) in the garden. The garden also contained the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
 - b) According to verses 10-14, what further enhanced the glorious garden? *A river that watered the garden (the water probably came out of the ground) separated into four headwaters that traveled through the surrounding lands.*
- 6) Perhaps at some time you have visited an especially beautiful, formally or informally designed garden.
 - a) What do you picture when you try to imagine a garden that God Himself personally planned for man? *Allow free sharing of imagination regarding the garden.*
 - b) Record as many ways as you can think of in which Adam and Eve would have benefited from the gift of the garden (both from the perspective of usefulness and of enjoyment). *How beautiful a sight this would have been and how lovely the sound of constantly bubbling and flowing waters. They surely enjoyed the taste of such fresh water, the soothing pleasure of bathing and swimming in it. Perhaps they played with the animals in the rivers, riding on one of them down the river! Apparently there was a wide variety of trees that were both beautiful to behold and delicious to eat from. Since God created man with intellect, He may have used the garden to instruct them in the sciences. The garden was also the place for Adam and Eve to learn obedience. Had they refused to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it seems they would have experienced spiritual development from practicing obedience. (Allow free, imaginative sharing.)*

- c) Name at least one gift God has given you for which you will thank Him today. **Personal sharing**

Reread Genesis 2:15-17.

- 7) The command in verses 16-17 expressed a great range of freedom with a very narrow limitation. What one and only limitation was Adam given and what was the result if it was breeched? **Adam and Eve were free to eat from any tree in the garden but one (they were even free to eat from the tree of life). However, they were warned that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was forbidden and would result in death.**
- 8) According to verses 15-17, what was the man's role in the Garden of Eden? **Man was to work the garden, care for it, and eat of it (verse 15).**
- 9) The man and woman were assigned work before sin entered the world. For which of your responsibilities do you need this reminder that work (in and of itself) is a God-given gift? **God "worked" to create the world. Work is inherently good. Just as God's image in us is marred by sin, so the benefits of work and man's motives in work have been distorted so that what was intended as a creative outlet, physical and mental exercise, and pleasure has become tedious, twisted in nature and an end in itself. Therefore, Christians should ask God to renew their minds in the area of work so it is done for His glory, in freedom from drivenness, compulsion, or distorted ends, and with new enthusiasm, energy and creativity. Personal sharing**

Reread Genesis 2:18-20a.

- 10) Verses 19-20a tell us about another dimension of the man's work. What was it and why would God have assigned this work to Adam? **The Lord assigned to Adam the work of naming all the animals, possibly to instill in him a sense of guardianship over the creatures, to increase Adam and the animals' familiarity with one another, and to give Adam an opportunity to praise and thank God for the uniqueness of each species. The task certainly made Adam aware that none of the animals corresponded to him.**
- 11) Based on what we have learned about God so far, why was it not good for the man (who was made in God's image) to be alone? **God is in fellowship with Himself as a triune Being. Man enjoyed fellowship vertically with God, but he needed horizontal fellowship with someone like himself.**
- 12) For which human "helper" do you need to show greater appreciation as a gift from God? How might you do that this week? (Although the Genesis text refers specifically to a marriage partner, you may include others in your answer.) **Personal sharing**

Reread Genesis 2:20b-25.

- 13) What precedents are established in verses 20b-25? **Marriage was ordained by God to exist between a man and woman. Additionally, the "one flesh" relationship is to occur exclusively in the context of that relationship.**
- 14) Read Isaiah 62:5; Ezekiel 16:1-14; Hosea 2:19-20; Ephesians 5:25-33 and Revelation 21:9. What does God intend the marriage relationship to portray? **The marriage relationship reminds us that we were created to find our ultimate completion by being in relationship with God. He is our ultimate Bridegroom, and He rejoices over us (Isaiah 62, Ezekiel 16, Hosea 2). A Christian marriage is to be a picture to the world of the commitment Christ has to His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5). One day Christ's Bride (the Church) will be forever with Him in heaven (Revelation 21).**
- 15) Based on what you discovered in Question 14, write a specific phrase or thought you can begin incorporating in your prayer life with regard to your own marriage, or if you are single, with regard to either a future spouse or the marriages of those you love. **Personal sharing**