

New Life Christian Fellowship

Homework Packet

Week Two– It Is Not Good for Man to
be Alone

Dates– January 15-21, 2012

In this packet: Sermon Outlines for
adults, youth and children; Home-
work suggestions, lyrics for worship

Journeying Together...As the People of God

New Life Christian Fellowship

January 15, 2012

It is Not Good for Man to Be Alone

A View from the bus: (General Overview) Suppose we were all on a bus rapidly taking in as much of Genesis 2 as possible in a driving tour. There are eight stops for quick photo opts on our overview:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
-

In the space below, write the major passages that are mentioned in today's sermon and any notes to help you to go back and study them on a deeper level this week.

Main Text today: Genesis 2:4-25

Other supporting passages:

Outline

An Explorer's View of Genesis regarding the fashioning of Eve and her relationship to Adam

Main Point 1– God is a God of _____.

1 Corinthians 14:33a says “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. “

God is a God of detail: Look at the detailed descriptions that he gives to Noah with how to build the ark or to the Israelites in how the temple is to be constructed.

Questions to consider:

Does the chronology of creation matter?

What does it mean that God made Adam from the dust and made woman from the man?

Does God love man and woman the same?

Does God have different roles and functions for man and woman?

Eve was made to be Adam's _____. Is this degrading for women?

Look at Psalm 118:6-7 and Hebrews 13:6

NOTE: It is NOT a bad thing to be made woman!!!!

Main Point 2– God intends for marriage to be between a _____ and a _____.

Three purposes for marriage:

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

Main Point 3– God intends for marriage to last a _____.

Three views of marriage and divorce:

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

Main Point 4– When a man and woman marry, they are to become _____.

Three types of Oneness:

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

**Main Point 5– In marriage, God intends for husbands and wives to be completely _____
with each other.**

A Few Notes & Quotes:

First from Pastor Mark- Much of the Journey will center around what God indicates in His Word to be His intent. Today, we will look at some of the things God intends for marriage. I realize that sometimes these “intentions” are contrary to what our culture thinks. But my personal opinion is that God has a reason behind His “intentions” as to how we are to do life. I believe that if we honor Him by doing life His way, we will find the joy our hearts crave. Sometimes it appears that our reward is not to be found in this world but in the next. Let us honor Him as we strive to live out His intent for our lives!

“When I know that God designed the marriage covenant to sanctify both me and my wife, to paint a picture on earth of the relationship between Christ and his church and to bring forth a generation of kingdom citizens who will know and follow hard after God, then my perspective is altered completely. Though my sin is ever before me, these truths call me back to the cross. Though my default position is to live for myself, these purposes remind me that I’m here to serve another.” ~ Voddie Bauchman

“Eve was made to be Adam’s helper which is not a denigration of Eve’s equality, since God is also called our helper.” ~ Mark Driscoll

Under the heading “O How Times Have Changed!” “There is certainly no country in the world where the tie of marriage is more respected than in America or where conjugal happiness is more highly or worthily appreciated.” ~ Alexis De Tocqueville in 1851

“A marriage, of course, was God’s idea. It was not man’s idea. This is the beauty of it. Man didn’t come up with marriage. Man didn’t invent marriage. Because man didn’t come up with marriage and because man didn’t invent marriage, man doesn’t get to reinvent marriage. God gave us marriage so he could define what it is, what it is supposed to be.” ~ Bauchman

Sermon Notes Page for Children

New Life Christian Fellowship

Today's Date: January 15, 2012

Today's Scripture Passage: Genesis 2:4-25

Stops Along the Journey: An explorer's view

1. God is a God of _____.
2. God intends for marriage to be between a _____ and a _____
3. God intends for marriage to last a _____.
4. When a man and woman marry, they are to become _____.
5. In marriage, God intends for husbands and wives to be completely _____ with each other.

A view from the bus...a tourist view:

- 1. God made man from dust**
- 2. God placed man in the Garden of Eden**
- 3. God commanded man not to eat of one particular tree**
- 4. God said, "It is not good for man to be alone."**
- 5. God made Eve to be Adam's wife**
- 6. Even was made from Adam's rib**
- 7. God created marriage**
- 8. The Creator is to have control over his creation**

Questions to ask my mom and dad about:

January's All Church Memory Verse

Psalm 8 (ESV)

¹ O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the
heavens.

² Out of the mouth of babies and
infants,
you have established strength
because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Indescribable by Chris Tomlin

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea;
 creation's revealing Your majesty
 From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
 Every creature unique in the song that it sings
 All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable,
 You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.
 You are amazing God. All powerful, untameable,
 Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim. You are amazing God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
 Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
 Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night. None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable,
 You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.
 You are amazing God. Incomparable, unchangeable. You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same
 You are amazing God
 You are amazing God

He Knows My Name by Tommy Walker

I have a Maker; He formed my heart
 Before even time began my life was in his hands

I have a Father. He calls me His own
 He'll never leave me no matter where I go

He knows my name
 He knows my every thought
 He sees each tear that falls
 And He hears me when I call

Lead Me by Sanctus Real

I look around and see my wonderful life
 Almost perfect from the outside
 In picture frames, I see my beautiful wife
 Always smiling, but on the inside

Oh, I can hear her saying
 Lead me with strong hands
 Stand up when I can't
 Don't leave me hungry for love
 Chasing dreams, but what about us?
 Show me you're willing to fight
 That I'm still the love of your life

I know we call this our home
 But I still feel alone

I see their faces, look in their innocent eyes
 They're just children from the outside
 I'm working hard, I tell myself they'll be fine
 They're independent, but on the inside

So Father, give me the strength
 To be everything I'm called to be
 Oh Father, show me the way
 To lead them
 Won't You lead me?

To lead them with strong hands
 To stand up when they can't
 Don't want to leave them hungry for love
 Chasing things that I could give up
 I'll show them I'm willing to fight
 And give them the best of my life
 So we can call this our home
 Lead me 'cause I can't do this alone
 Father, lead me 'cause I can't do this alone

It Is Well With My Soul

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain: It is well, with my soul,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
 If Jordan above me shall roll,
 No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
 Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

5. But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
 The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
 Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
 Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

6. And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
 The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
 Even so, it is well with my soul.

January 15

Children's Parents Page for Genesis 2

There are many ways you can take this passage and apply it to points about marriage- some are very controversial in our society. As you take this and read my ideas for ways to study this passage with your children, please know that I have not written any of these discussion points with an attitude of judgment. There are two major things to discuss with your children this week. One is the issue of homosexuality and the other is the issue of divorce. I have dealt with both of these issues with loved ones in my life and realize that these are sensitive subjects. Our love for people should not change based the choice someone makes. However, we must lift up God's standard and teach that marriage is to be experienced between a man and a woman and it is to last a lifetime. If you are a divorced parent, I still encourage you to study this passage with your child and teach them that God's perfect intent was for marriage to last a lifetime. You can decide when, if ever, to discuss with your child why you got a divorce. Similarly, if you have relatives in your family who are openly gay, I still encourage you to teach your child that God's way is for a man and a woman to get married, not a man and a man to be together or a woman and a woman.

Possible activities to do together:

1. Watch your wedding video or look at your wedding photo album. Talk to your kids about why you chose to marry each other. Use this time to give them any gems of wisdom about marriage that you want to.
2. If grandparents live nearby, consider going to their house and looking at their wedding album together and having the same discussion as in #1.
3. Spend time praying with your child or for your child about his/her future spouse- include things like may they be a person who loves God with their whole heart, soul and mind, may they bring out the best in your child and may your child bring out the best in their future spouse, may the future spouse make wise choices as a child, a teen, and a young adult and stay pure in heart and body. Note, this may be an awkward prayer time to have with some kids. If so, don't push it, just pray later by yourself for your child's future spouse.
4. Reread Genesis 2:15-24 (you could act this out using playdough as well)
 - a. Ask your children what they think God wants us to learn about marriage from this passage. (Possibilities to discuss: (for man and woman only, for a lifetime, spouses more important to each other than family of origin)
 - b. Look at verse 18. Why did God make the woman? (Because he loved the man and knew he was lonely- our God provides for our needs!) (Also- to be a helper for the man)
 - c. What does it mean for a woman to be a "helper" to her husband?
5. Read Eph 5:21-33 together
 - a. Discuss what submission is – let kids try to define it and then look it up in a dictionary or at dictionary.com
 - b. Describe how mom and dad submit to each other- give concrete examples if possible so kids can see what it looks like (ex- daddy doesn't like lima beans so mommy doesn't cook them if he is home or mommy doesn't like a certain kind of music so daddy doesn't play it in the car when she is in it)
6. Balloon hit to memorize Psalm 8- blow up a balloon for each person in your family, or just one to bat back and forth to each other.
 - a. The object is to recite or read the passage as you hit the balloon and keep it off the ground.
 - b. You decide how many verses to work on.
 - i. You may choose to do just verse 1 over and over again until everyone has it and then move onto verse two.
 - ii. You may choose to read through the whole passage together as you hit the balloon.

iii. You may have another plan altogether. 😊

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

There's a lot of material here. Going through all of it in the course of one week might seem impossible, but it's not meant to be discouraging. This was designed in way to allow you to take the pieces you can implement and make them a part of your family's devotional life this week. Here are some tips based on how this was written that might help you do just that.

1. Monday, Wednesday, Friday: These days are weighted with more content. An every other day approach to formal family discipleship can often be more accessible than an every day grind. For that reason, these days have been given the central bits of teaching to the week's passage while Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday have been given more supplemental materials.
2. Formal vs. Informal suggestions: You'll notice there are some sections that are labeled FORMAL and INFORMAL throughout the week. The FORMAL heading denotes times of teaching where the family might gather to read scripture, ask questions, pray, and reflect on what they read. These times will often be the most successful if they are given a specific time in the day or the week when the family commits to coming together for the express purpose of study. The INFORMAL heading is for things that are better suited to being made part of daily life. They can happen "along the road," so to speak, and can be built into the fabric of everyday life.

PLEASE NOTE: Especially for teens, the INFORMAL times of teaching are often far more important. These are the pieces that have a way of becoming the fabric of faith in the life of your family. If you can only do one of the two types of study I would suggest that you make it a point to focus on the INFORMAL opportunities for teaching. Experience and research have shown that these are the sorts of things that are more likely to develop a lasting faith in a person's life (For more on this visit www.stickyfaith.org and check out their resources for parents on developing a faith that sticks).

3. Suggested activities: Students often benefit most from experiential learning. These suggested activities are meant to be ways to engage more tactile senses and the imagination as a way to internalize the teaching for the week. While it might be difficult to do them all, I would recommend picking at least one for your family to do together during a week.
4. We are Christians reading the Old Testament and as such we need to read these passages through Jesus. There are questions throughout to help you do this, but you can also help your family by simply asking, "How does this passage point us to Jesus?"

Week Two: The man and woman in the garden

Monday: Dust with Spirit Breath

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:4-25

1. Why do you think it is important that Adam is made “out of the dust of the ground?” Why do you think it is important that God is said to have breathed life into Adam, something that is not said of the other animals of creation?
2. How is does the creation of Adam (and then Eve) differ from other animals in Genesis 2? What do you think this says about God’s design for humans?
3. After Jesus ascends to the right hand of the Father in Acts 1 the Holy Spirit is sent to “breathe” new life into the disciples. How is the new breath made possible through Jesus like the original breath that God placed in Adam? How is it different?

Possible Activity: On a sheet of computer paper, have each person in your family draw a person. Try to use most of the paper so that everyone has a rather large image. Talk about what this person’s world is like. Imagine what the person is supposed to do in their world. If you’re feeling really inspired you can draw a world for them to live in as well. Once the person is drawn and colored, cut it out and try to bring it to life, really, try to turn it into a living breathing person. Imagine what it would be like if that had worked. How would you be able to connect with the piece of paper person? How would you be limited in your relationship?

INFORMAL

By breathing life into his creation, God initiates a distinct connection with human beings that he does not share with other beings in creation. During this week, look for opportunities to point out times when your son or daughter is living according to the Spirit of God, rather than the natural instinct that is associated with being formed out of the stuff of this world. Talk to them about the difference between a Spirit led life and a Spirit-less life.

Tuesday: The Holiness of God in Genesis 2

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:4-7

[Background Bite] The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. The Hebrew word for “man” or “human” is *adam* and it is related to the Hebrew word for “the ground” *adamah*. The relationship of the two words illustrates the connectedness of humanity to creation. Similarly the Hebrew word for “breath” is *ruah* which is also the Hebrew word for spirit. It’s use speaks to the crossing over of Creator to creation to breath life into Adam.

1. How does the relationship of *adam* to *adamah* illustrate a distance between God and humankind evident even from the beginning? What does it mean then that God chose to cross that distance to bring life into humanity originally?
2. In Jesus, God not only crossed the gulf between heaven and earth, but he also crossed the gulf that would eventually be deepened by sin. How does God crossing over that divide give you hope as you live today?

INFORMAL

By nature, we are limited creatures. These limitations point us to a limitless God who chose from the beginning to walk with us. There may be no time where our limits are more powerful than in adolescence. When your teen is struggling with the limits in his or her own life, take the opportunity to point them to the love and support found in God. Remind them that God has from the beginning animated his creation with his own breath and by his Spirit we can do greater things than we can in our own created power.

Wednesday: Vocation: To Work and to Keep

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:8-17

1. Adam is created and put in the garden to *cultivate it* and to *keep it*. What do we learn about God's intention for work in our life today?
2. [Background Bite] The Hebrew words for *cultivate* and *work* have to do with both physical labor (tending to the ground and keeping an area safe from predators) as well as with elements of worship (serving God in a temple or worship setting and keeping a sacred space holy). How can what we choose to do in school and in our future vocation be both acts of work and worship?
3. Jesus told his disciples that the greatest commandment is to love God and love others. How can we incorporate loving God and loving others into the way we work, and how does that relate to God's original intention for Adam and Eve and work in the Garden?

Possible Activity: Have everyone in the family list their responsibilities at work or school and at home that relate to working. Have each person share their list and then offer suggestions about how they can worship God in the midst of their work. At the end of the week have each person share a way that they successfully fulfilled their role as worshiper in the midst of their work.

INFORMAL

"What are you going to do when you get older?" This is one of the primary questions that students face as they reach adolescence. Look for opportunities to talk about what sorts of things your son or daughter feel interested in and drawn to as a future career. Offer help to

research what it would take to pursue that sort of career. Try to identify the characteristics about that career that are interesting to your son or daughter and then talk about what it means to worship God in that sort of vocation. Looking into careers with your teens is a great way to turn their attention toward adulthood and to help them embrace faith as they mature.

Thursday: Caring for Creation

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:8-17

God created a garden in which Adam and Eve's physical needs could be met, but also created them to cultivate the plants that lived there for their food. Many people today talk about "going green" and the importance of caring for creation. While this topic can be heated at times, and people have different views about what responsible uses of resources are, it's hard to escape two facts from Genesis 2: (1) God gave humans great resources to meet our needs in life, (2) God expects men and women to use these resources to take care of and tend creation in worship to Him.

1. How does this help us understand our relationship to the resources in creation today?
2. How does the way we use the earth's resources help us to worship God?

INFORMAL

The "green" movement has a lot of baggage attached to it, but the desire to care for God's creation while using the resources God has made available to us is something that Christians can both support and better understand in light of Genesis 2. As a family, decide what steps you can take to better steward the resources available to your family. Make sure your family understands the measures you may have already put in place to best take care of God's creation.

Friday: The Man and The Woman

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:18-25

1. What problem does God observe as being "not good" in creation in verse 18? How does he solve the problem?
2. Why do you think that God had all the animals come before Adam before creating Eve? What makes Eve unique in the way she was created as opposed to the rest of creation?
3. [Background Bite] God declares that he will create a "helper fit" to solve the problem of Adam's aloneness (ESV). "Helper fit" is the translation of the Hebrew *ezer* and *kenegdo*. *Ezer* is a word that carries with it the idea of "one who rescues or saves with strength" while *kenegdo*

is a combination of two words that in a sense mean, “the same” and “totally different.” What does the meaning of these words tell us about God’s solution to Adam’s aloneness?

Possible Activity: Have each person write a simple skit that involves more than one person trying to accomplish a task. Once everyone has written their skit, have each person act out their skits by themselves. After everyone has tried, pick one or two of the skits have the family act it out together. Talk about how difficult life would be if God had only made Adam and never made a way for him to live life in relationship with another person. Talk about how lonely it would be as well, given that we are made in the image of God who is Love and love requires relationship.

INFORMAL

In the next week, make an opportunity to tell your son or daughter about someone in your life who has been a significant help to you. Tell them how that person has enabled you to fulfill your God-given call to order this world and worship God. Challenge them to look for that person in their own life, and to cultivate a relationship that helps them be more like Jesus. If you son or daughter is receptive, you might consider introducing them to a man or woman in the church who can help them by walking alongside of them in their discipleship journey.

Saturday: The One Becomes Two Becomes One

FORMAL

Read Genesis 2:4-25, focusing on verses 20-25.

[Background Bite] In verse 23 we are introduced to two new Hebrew words in the Bible. When Adam says that Eve will be called “woman” the text cannot use the word *adam* to form the feminine *adamah* because that is also the word for “ground” out of which Adam was formed originally. Instead it uses the word for man and woman which is more specifically tied to gender, *ish* (man) and *isha* (woman). God chose such a unique way to create woman that in order to properly identify their relationship the text must use new words to describe how they are related but different.

1. In what ways are man and woman intimately connected to one another through the way that God chose to create the woman in Genesis 2?
2. In what ways do men and women join back together again to become one person as is described at the end of the chapter?

(Sort of) INFORMAL

Genesis 2:24 is used often in the New Testament by Jesus and by Paul to lay the foundation of marriage and sexual fidelity. There is a real sense in which what is being said is that God took the one man, split him into two people and then called them to join together as one again in some new and special ways, not the least of which is the physical, sexual union that they are

able to share. Junior high and Senior high students (and adults as well) are assaulted daily by images and messages declaring a sexual ethic of promiscuity and self-pleasure. While the temptation is to lay down the “rules” about sex that the Bible prescribes, it is also important to help teens to begin to think “Christianly” about these things. This passage offers an opportunity to have a real conversation with you son or daughter about the image of oneness that God designed from the beginning. Waiting for sex until marriage isn’t just a rule, it’s something that is designed by God to allow men and women to join as one in a powerful and lifelong way. Talk with your son or daughter about the bond that is created in sex and how that is used by God to draw back together the two people who were spilt in Genesis 2 so that they might become one.