

## **Synopsis for others**

### **Genesis 2:18-25**

*3 parts: (2 in 8am / 3 in 10am)*

#### **“Not Good to be alone – we were designed for relationship” v18-20**

Details of what God did in Gen 1:27, here expanded.

Adam alone was not complete, not good for him to be alone.

From Adam God created Eve.

Complementing and completing each other.

#### **“Marriage, a gift from God” v21-25**

One man and one woman coming together as a whole – God’s gift to each other and marriage as a gift for humanity.

People trying to do without God and often getting it wrong.

Jesus reinforcing God’s plan (Matt 19:3-6)

The church’s role in this.

#### **“God’s bigger picture”**

The picture of marriage in the Bible

God’s relationship with his people

God’s restoration of relationship through Jesus.

The church (the bride) and Jesus -> Revelation

The Hymn “Love divine, all loves excelling” tells of all of this.

## For Home Groups

When we consider marriage as a gift from God, which is the focus of this study, we will come with a variety of views on what that means and who it should and can be between. I have an orthodox view of scripture and Christian marriage, that is as stated in Genesis 2 and reiterated by Jesus in Matthew 19:3-6, it is between one man and one woman and at its best is lifelong. Please don't switch off at this point as there are some good things to see about marriage as a gift from God, regardless of our views.

One of the points of this narrative is to help us understand the detail of God's creation of men and women and something of what this models in human society and relationship with God.

### **Read the passage – Genesis 2:18-25**

**Question:** Verse 18 states God's recognition that Adam is not complete, something is missing. How did God approach resolving this in verses 19-20?

Animals often provide people with a source of companionship. Many of us have dogs, cats or other "pets". Which can help us with learning to care for other creatures, provide for their needs and with dogs, getting exercise as we take them for walks.

**Discuss:** Why do you think from naming and considering all of the creatures God had created, a suitable companion for Adam, could not be found?

The narrative, tells us that something else was needed as a suitable helper for Adam. One which would bring to him something he was missing. Notice how God says that it was not good for him to be alone, God had not finished creation at that point. In bringing the creatures to Adam he was showing that Adam had authority over them and as we know was called upon to "rule" over them. Verses 21-22 Tell how God resolved the situation.

It is reasonable to think that in taking a piece of Adam, a rib, that the woman God created would in fact be a clone of Adam. However, that was not the case.

The human Genome Project found that men and Women are around 99.9% the same when it comes to their genetic make-up. But they are not identical.

God created Adam and Eve to be similar in many ways but different in others.

**Question:** How do you react to God's point that man was not to be alone, and so was not complete as he was? Without getting personal 😊 in what ways do men and women differ?

This narrative also tells us that one man and one woman will come together to form one flesh. This suggests that there is something about each that the other needs to be complete. It also tells us that it is something that none of the creatures previously looked at could give. There is also a clear indication that in taking the rib, something important to protecting the vital organs and from the side of Adam, that God was not making a subservient person in Eve, but one who was a suitable helper. That is one who would add to the whole something that Adam alone could not.

As Matthew Henry Said in his commentary "Not made out of his head to top him, not made of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him. Under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved"

In our society, we have moved from what has been a male dominated one to one where men and women are regarded as equals. We may well have different views on this and how far it has progressed.

**Question:** Different, but Equal? How do we feel about this idea that while Adam and Eve (man and woman) were created to be different, they are both in the image of God and therefore of equal status?

The Christian church we understand is a model of relationship, in some ways like the relationship God wanted with Israel prior to the exile. The church we are told is the bride of Christ. Made up of people who love Jesus and accept him as lord and saviour. Certainly not perfect but redeemed through Jesus's death on the cross and his resurrection.

**Discuss:** How might we as church demonstrate this relationship between us and God and project how this relationship with God through Jesus is so relevant in our society today (a big ask, but hopefully helpful).

Some possibly useful scriptures – but don't get too tangled with them 😊  
1Corinthians 13; Ephesians 5; Revelation 19:6-10;

**Question:** There are various types of relationship. Given that the study is about marriage and many are single, how might we include those who are single in this discussion of marriage and in the life of the church?

Enmeshed in all of this is God's love of people and the love they should develop for each other in such a relationship. We may have very different views of Christian marriage or in fact of marriage in general. God in the passage effectively gives marriage between the man and the woman as a gift and a model. And this before any notion of Christian marriage. This is often seen as God's best for us.

Jesus reinforced this when asked about marriage and divorce Matthew 19:3-6.

**Question:** How might the church help people see that marriage is God's gift to us all?

You might want to consider the Vows we make in church as a part of this.

*I, (name), take you, (name)  
to be my wife/husband,  
to have and to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part,  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.'*

**You may also find the words of this Hymn a useful reflection**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find thy promised rest;  
Take away our love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver;  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy host above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in Heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**Spend a little time in prayer about this whole area of life and relationship.**