

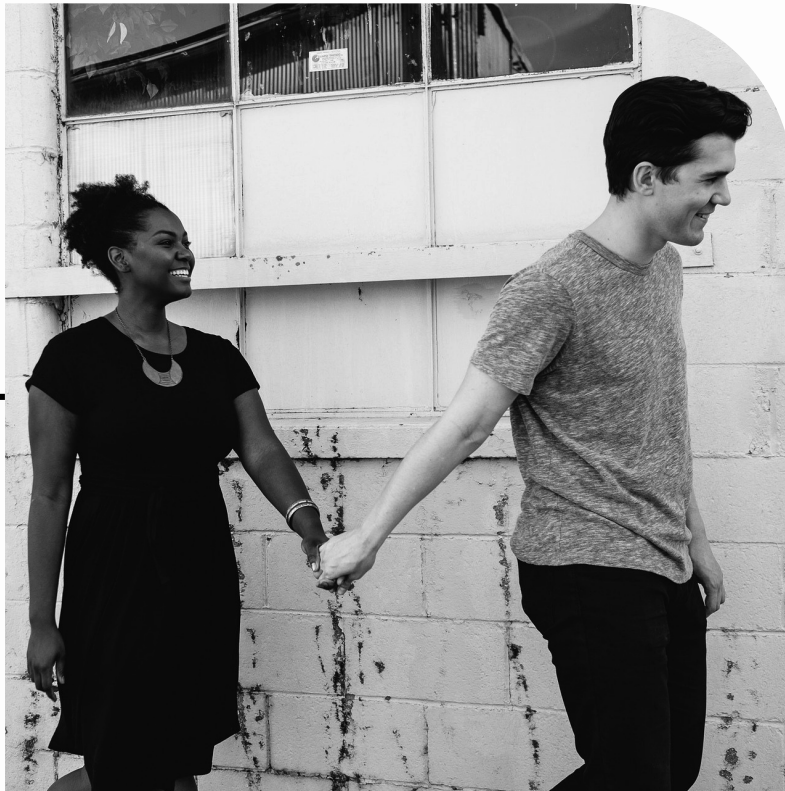
Life Group Study

"Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready" -
Revelation 19:7



Fall 2022 Life Group Study - Week 1 - Unity

Welcome!



Welcome to the Fall 2022 Life Group Series! We will be focusing on marriage in this series, but the study is for EVERYONE, married, not married, old and young, men and women.

How can a Life Group series about marriage be helpful to a widow(er) or a single person? It turns out that marriage is a model for the church's relationship with Christ - and ALL Christians have that relationship.

We will discover God's plan for our relationships with him and one another, focusing on:

- Unity
- Love
- Trust
- Faithfulness
- Honor
- Humility
- Patience

So, whether you're married or not and want to improve your relationship with God and others, this study is for you!

Before Life Group

- If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
- Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
- Read the scripture focus for the study.
- Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.

Introduction

We pick up the story of Adam and Eve in the second chapter of Genesis. In Genesis 1, the Lord created the heavens, the earth, and all the plants, fish, birds, and livestock that fill the planet.

God's crowning achievement in the creation story is the creation of humanity. Genesis 1:26-27 reads,

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2 gives us the details of exactly how the Lord created the first humans. This study will focus on God's intention for humanity from the beginning - we are made to be together. This relationship between Adam and Eve is the first relationship either of them or the human race ever had. That should tell us a lot about how important the marriage relationship is to God. We'll discover precisely why God values marriage as we work through seven marriages in the Bible.

Background

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

The opening chapters of Genesis tell us about the beginning of history, where everything starts.

GOD'S STORY

God's story is eternal and everlasting, but his interaction with humanity begins in Genesis. Through God's storybook, the Bible, we discover the following outline.

Creation -> Fall -> Redemption -> Restoration

Creation - God creates the heavens and the earth and fills the earth with life. The pinnacle of God's creation is man and woman, who he made in his own image.

Fall -Although the Lord gave humanity everything they needed, the serpent tempted humanity to reject life and the God who created them. The result of humanity's disobedience was the fall - humanity's expulsion from paradise, pain, sickness, and death in all creation.

Redemption -The Lord covers the sins of his people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.

Restoration -> God restores humanity to their rightful place in the new heaven and new earth where the curse of the fall has been defeated.

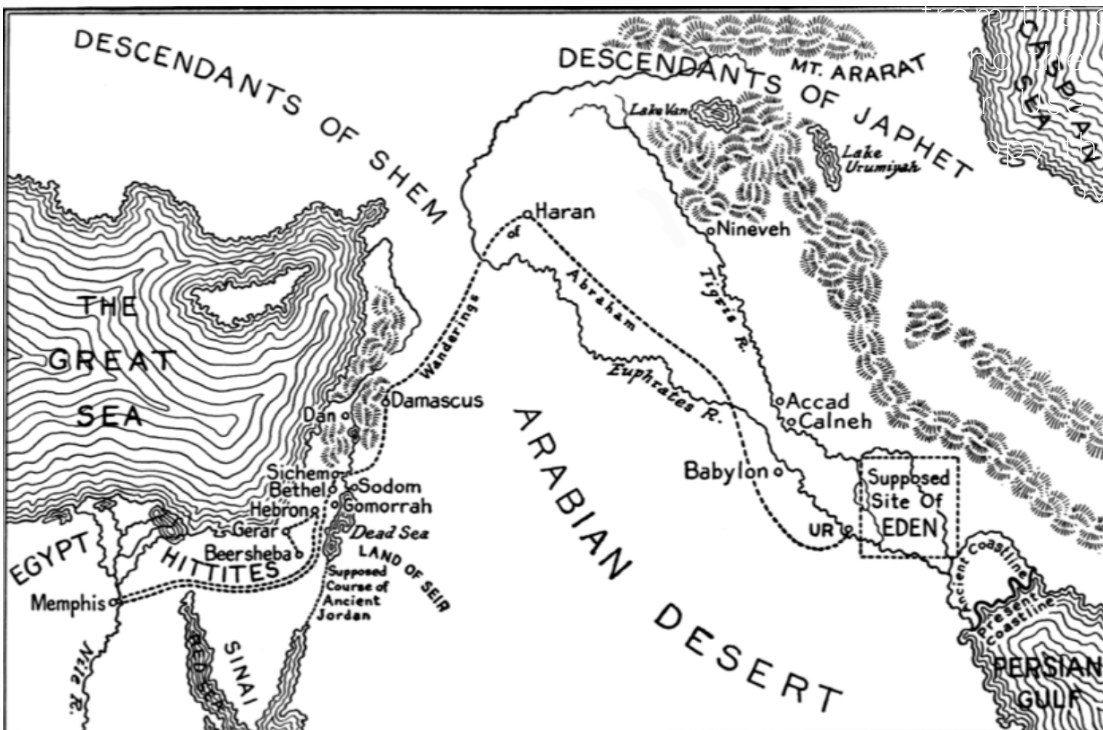


Background

Genesis is a concise introduction to who God is. In the first couple chapters of Genesis, we discover that God is...

1. Powerful beyond imagination as he created everything in the universe.
2. Creative as he designed each and every biological organism in their variety and beauty.
3. Orderly, doing everything according to his plan and putting everything in its proper place.
4. The source of every good thing.
5. A leader who wants those made in his image to care for his creation.
6. Empathetic as he saw Adam's need for a companion.

MAP



Study

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. Read Genesis 2:4-25. What two “ingredients” did the LORD use to form man? What do these two ingredients tell us about what it means to be human?
2. According to verse 15, what did the LORD do with Adam? What did he expect Adam to do?
3. Verse 18 says it’s not good for the man to be alone. Name at least two reasons it wouldn’t be good for Adam to be alone. What did the LORD decide to do for Adam as a result?
4. According to verses 23-25, how close is the man to the woman? What is the significance of the man leaving his father and mother?

GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

1. Genesis 2 stresses the importance of having helpers and companionship. Do you have opportunities to share your life with others who need help and companionship? Share opportunities you have or activities you’ve engaged in that give fellowship to the lonely.
2. The Lord gave the man work to do in Genesis 2:15. What work has the Lord given you work to do here on earth? Share with the group how helpers in your workplace have made your life easier.

GOD'S WORD FOR OUR FAMILY

1. Genesis 2 stresses the importance of having helpers and companionship. Do you have opportunities to share your life with others who need help and companionship? Share opportunities you have or activities you’ve engaged in that give fellowship to the lonely.
2. The Lord gave the man work to do in Genesis 2:15. What work has the Lord given you work to do here on earth? Share with the group how helpers in your workplace have made your life easier.

GOD'S WORD FOR OUR WORSHIP

1. Genesis 2:23 contains the first words of humanity recorded in scripture. In these words, Adam exclaims in poetry the relief he’s experienced because of God’s tremendous gift - his wife. In what ways does the corporate worship experience on Sunday morning allow us to exclaim the greatness of God’s gifts to us?

1. How do the following elements of worship unite us with God?

- God's Greeting/Mutual Greeting
- Call to Worship
- Prayer
- Offering
- Preaching
- Baptism/Lord's Supper
- Sending

GOD'S WORD FOR HIS KINGDOM

1. What does the Biblical, traditional, Christian understanding of marriage have to offer the world? What changes in society would you expect to see if people embraced a Biblical understanding of marriage?
2. What opportunities does the church have to share with the world the beauty of a marriage where husband and wife are united to Christ? What opportunities can we make?

Glossary

BDELLIUM - Possibly a precious material, found in the land of Havilah along with onyx and gold (Gen 2:12). Manna is compared in appearance to bdellium (Num 11:7) (The Lexham Bible Dictionary. Lexham Press.)

IMAGE OF GOD - A phrase found several times in the book of Genesis (Gen 1:7-27; 5:1-3; 9:6). Distinguishes humankind from the animal and plant kingdoms. Elevates humankind above all terrestrial created things so as to exercise benevolent and ethical stewardship over creation. Image of God language is found in the New Testament as part of the Christian's responsibility to imitate Christ, who is the image(r) of God par excellence. (The Lexham Bible Dictionary. Lexham Press.)

NOTES

