

## **Dysfunction Junction - Sexual Identity, Personal Sacrifice and Breakdown in Communication.**

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### Message to Conversation Guide

1. The most obvious feature of the first couple in the book of Genesis was that they were gender diverse - meaning that they were created male and female. Read the text below and discuss the certainty of this distinction in the first family in the Bible.

#### **Gen 1:26-27**

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image,  
**in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.** NIV

#### **Gen 2:21-25**

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 **Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.**

23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

24 **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

25 The man and **his wife** were both naked, and they felt no shame. NIV

#### **Gen 5:1-2**

1 This is the written account of Adam's family line.  
When God created mankind, **he made them in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female** and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. NIV

2. Discuss how Jesus underscored the heterosexual model that was the original model in the creation story in Genesis.

### **Matthew 19:4-6**

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "**that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'** 5 and said, '**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,** and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." NIV

### **Mark 10:5-9**

5 "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. 6 "**But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'** 7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." NIV

3. When God made a second human he made one completely different than Adam. God didn't make another man but this time he made a woman. What are the implications that God created the first family to consist of a man and a woman?
4. God made Adam out of the ground. Eve however was made from Adam's rib. Discuss the implication that relationships are based on sharing the deepest part of ourselves with another person. Also the giving of Adam's rib indicated that a successful relationship must be built upon sacrifice for the other person.
5. Adam needed a helper. The word helper can mean ally. The Hebrew word is *ezer* and *ezer* comes *azar* which can mean an ally in times of war. Discuss the meaning of this word in light of its usage in the verse below? How does an ally in times of war translate into marriage?

### **Ge. 2:18**

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **helper** suitable for him." NIV

### **1 Kings 20:16-17**

16 They set out at noon while Ben-Hadad and the 32 kings **allied with him** were in their tents getting drunk. 17 The young officers of the provincial commanders went out first. NIV

### **1 Chron 12:1**

12 These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors **who helped him in battle;**) NIV (See also **1 Chron 5:20**)

6. Adam was with Eve when she made the poor decision to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. His presence is certain in the story but he was

silent. Why do you believe that Adam didn't speak up? Why didn't Eve ask Adam for advice on her important decision? (See **Ge. 3:6-7**)