

# Q1

# CREATION AND COVENANT

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

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ADULTS



FALL | 2024



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# GOD'S WORD TO YOU

## A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

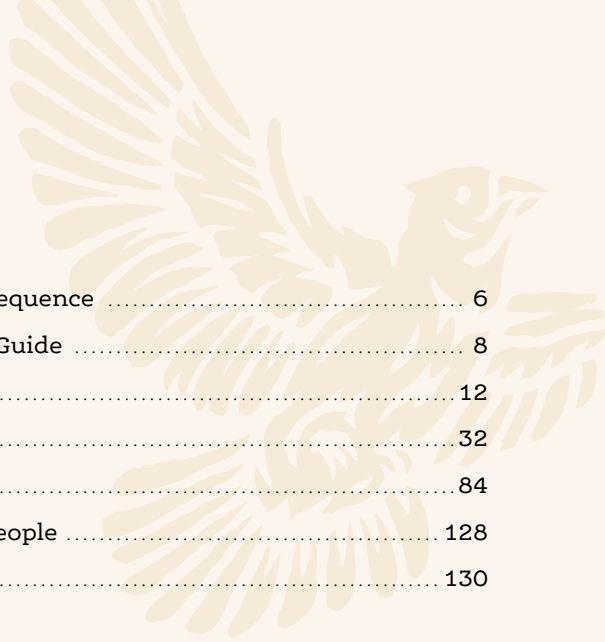
Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

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## THE EDITOR

Welcome to The Gospel Project! We're glad you're with us as we start a brand new cycle of study. If you've been with us before, you might be struck by our brand new look and layout. What better way to start with the theme of creation than to create a whole new look and method to study through the Bible. What you'll still have is a chronological, gospel-centric study that helps you grow in your knowledge of how all of Scripture points to Jesus Christ. But you'll also see new graphics and new activity-based learning methods that will help you engage with Scripture and your group discussion.

It's fun to use our creative ability to explore different ways of studying Scripture as image-bearers of the creative God we worship. He began it all with His precision, creativity, and goodness. As we look at how God created the world good and how humanity's sin led to the brokenness of the world, we see a gracious God and sinful humanity as the basis of the gospel message. Studying the beginning of Genesis gives us how we got to where we are today and why we are all in need of a Savior.

I'm mesmerized by the mercy of God throughout these stories, growing up always thinking they were narratives of punishment and judgment. Yet weaved between the pain of the consequences of our own choices, God threads a message of hope, love, and rescue because of His patient compassion for His created beings.

As you study how it all began, may you "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity" (2 Peter 3:18).

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**We believe** that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit [www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

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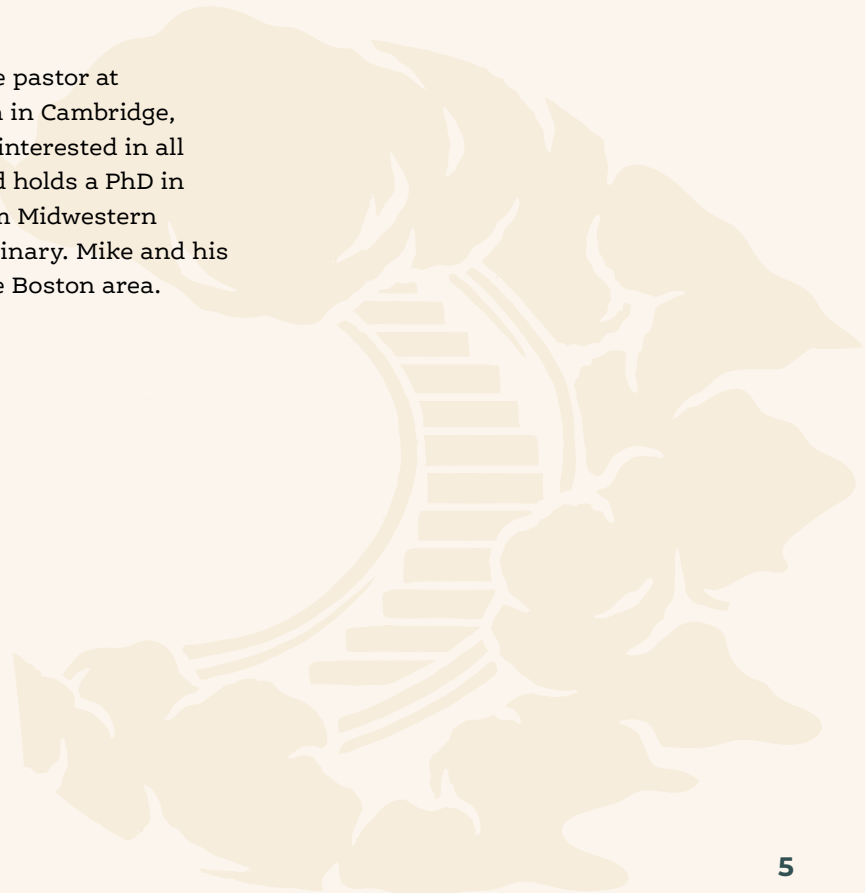
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(Unit 1, Sessions 1-5)

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## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The Gospel Project for Adults aspires to point people to the gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly group Bible studies and additional resources that show how God’s plan of redemption unfolds throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. This curriculum provides theological yet practical studies that immerse your group in the **STORY** of the gospel, helping to develop a gospel **CULTURE** that leads to gospel **MISSION**.

### GOSPEL STORY

Our aim is to help people understand the storyline of Scripture and to see the thread from the beginning to the end that weaves through it all—God’s plan to rescue and redeem His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL CULTURE

Our hope is that the message of the gospel saturates our understanding of Christ, increasing our joy in Him and helping doubters become believers who become declarers of the gospel.

### GOSPEL MISSION

Our desire is to encourage believers to live on mission, declaring the good news of the gospel in word and deed for God’s glory and the growth of His kingdom.

## 3 YEAR PLAN

### **VOL 01: CREATION AND COVENANT**

(Genesis; Job)  
Fall 2024

### **VOL 02: LAW AND LIFE**

(Exodus–Deuteronomy)  
Winter 2024–25

### **VOL 03: LAND AND LOSS**

(Joshua–1 Samuel)  
Spring 2025

### **VOL 04: FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM**

(1 Samuel–1 Kings; Wisdom Literature)  
Summer 2025

### **VOL 05: DIVISION AND DEFIANCE**

(1 Kings–2 Chronicles; The Prophets)  
Fall 2025

### **VOL 06: PROPHETS AND PROVISION**

(The Prophets; Ezra–Esther)  
Winter 2025–26

### **VOL 07: THE SON HAS COME**

(The Gospels)  
Spring 2026

### **VOL 08: THE SON HAS AUTHORITY**

(The Gospels)  
Summer 2026

### **VOL 09: THE SON HAS TRUTH**

(The Gospels)  
Fall 2026

### **VOL 10: THE SON HAS RISEN**

(The Gospels; Acts)  
Winter 2026–27

### **VOL 11: THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION**

(Acts; The Epistles)  
Spring 2027

### **VOL 12: THE CHURCH HAS A FUTURE**

(The Epistles; Revelation)  
Summer 2027

# HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

The Personal Study Guide is a vital tool in your personal and group experience with The Gospel Project for Adults. Here’s how to make the most of your time with it:

## 1) READ THE WORD DAILY

Begin each week by reading the Scriptures according to the Daily Readings. These Bible readings will help you mentally and spiritually prepare for the group experience each week while also building healthy Bible study habits for personal growth. The daily readings will help you understand the context of the Bible story for each week’s session and fill in the gaps between sessions. The weekly psalm reading will help you think worshipfully and prayerfully about the story’s place in the greater redemptive narrative of the Bible. And the timeline will give you a visual perspective so you can place the Bible story in the larger context of the Bible’s storyline.



**TIMELINE**

The Eternal God Creates Genesis 1:1-2:3

- Day 1: Light, Day and Night
- Day 2: Sea and Sky
- Day 3: Land and Plants
- Day 4: Light, Sun, Moon, and Stars
- Day 5: Fish and Birds
- Day 6: Animals and Humans Created in with Genesis 2:4-25
- Day 7: God Restes

**Daily Readings**

- Day 1: Genesis 1:1-2:3
- Day 2: Genesis 1:24-2:3
- Day 3: Psalm 8
- Day 4: Genesis 2:4-27
- Day 5: Genesis 2:18-25
- Day 6: Psalm 148

Scan this QR code to access the readings to guide your group.

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- **Daily Readings**
- **Chronological Timeline**



## 2) STUDY THE PERSONAL PREPARATION

The Personal Preparation section contains the Scripture passages you will examine and discuss with your Bible study group. As you read each Scripture passage, a Bible study prompt will help you highlight, underline, or jot notes to help you engage with the Scripture and to provoke discussion with your group on the following Sunday. A brief commentary with thought-provoking questions will help you dig deeper into the text and reflect on what the text teaches you about God and yourself. You have the full week to work on your personal preparation, so whether you prefer to break it up into parts or do it all in one day, the flexibility is there for your schedule.

- Scripture
- Commentary
- Questions

**PERSONAL PREPARATION**

GENESIS 2:18-25

**GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS TO BE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.**

*Identify the three main scenes in this passage and briefly summarize each.*

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." 19 The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said, "This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called 'woman,' for she was taken from man." 24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

**GOSPEL CONNECTION**

The exclusive relationship between husband and wife pictures the plan of God for Christ and the church to be united as one through the perfect sacrificial death of Jesus to cleanse us of our sin and make us holy (Ephesians 5:22-33).

**Key Concept: God created humanity for relationships.**

The constant refrain of Genesis 1 is "And God saw that it was good," describing various stages of His creative work. God even concluded day six with the declaration that it was all "very good indeed" (1:31). But before the "very good" was accomplished, a "not good" was first identified (2:5). The man God created in His image was alone. Certainly, the Lord was with him, but God knew the man needed "a helper corresponding to him," someone like him who could be a complement to him, unlike a dog, cat, bird, or fish (2:19-20).

**THEOLOGY CONNECTION**

**MAN:** Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.

So God took a rib from the man and fashioned it into a woman, a companion who was like the man yet distinct and different, and she became his wife (2:21-24). For the work of sending the garden and multiplying to fill the earth, the woman would be the man's "helper" (2:18). We must not classify this role as sterile or subservient but as a role of honor and dignity, one that reflects God's image, for God Himself is called a "helper" in Exodus 18:4.

What are some ways God's people should honor God for the good gift of gender as male and female?

The first man and woman God created set the pattern for a husband and wife to join together and become "one flesh" in a relationship of love, sacrifice, submission, and respect (Ephesians 5:22-33). The fruit of marriage was expected to be a family with children and then a community obeying the Word of the Lord. As a result of Adam's sin (Genesis 3), we don't always see these intended outcomes, yet the Lord remains faithful, even through childlessness, institutional singleness, and loneliness. Through the love and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has raised up a community in the church to love and help one another. And in the church, we are united with one another and supremely with Christ.

How can your group help others who feel lonely and isolated?

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### 3) PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

The Group Experience for each session includes an activity and interactive questions designed to make the most of your group experience. Depending on your leader, he or she may have you do the activity on your own before doing it together as a group, or your leader may want you to wait until group time. Either way, the personal prep you've put into the days leading up to your group time will provide a richer discussion and more thoughtful theological applications to mutually encourage each other during group time.

**GROUP EXPERIENCE**

**CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

Based on Genesis 2:18-25, how should we relate to God?  
How should we relate to others?

GOD

OTHERS

What is one insight you gained from this activity that you need to think more about?

32 Unit 2 | Session 4 | God Created Humanity



- **Group Activity**
- **Interactive Questions**
- **Theological Applications**

#### 4) TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of your group time, consider how to apply the day's Scripture lesson by walking through the Head, Heart, and Hands application questions. Share and discuss answers to the questions for the mutual benefit of everyone in the group. Then take time in your group, and during the week after, to read and pray through the designated psalm, focusing your thoughts and words once more upon God's Word. And finally, record prayer requests and praises as you wrap up your group time. Space is provided to jot those down in your guide for prayer during the following week.



- Application Questions
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Requests



# CREATION AND COVENANT

By Mike Brooks

Some of my favorite memories growing up are the times we spent piecing together massive jigsaw puzzles during visits to my grandmother's house on the weekends or over the holidays. We would scatter thousands of small puzzle pieces across the wooden dining room table, and as aunts, uncles, and cousins found opportunity during a quick visit, they would put a piece or two in place.

Some projects took a few weeks, others took a few months to finish. Yet one thing was certain—all of them would have been impossible to complete without one vital and often overlooked element. Every puzzle project was a non-starter apart from the puzzle box sitting upright at the table's far end as a consistent point of reference. The pieces could make sense because we could see the whole picture.

As is the case with thousand-piece jigsaw puzzles, so it is with the Bible—having the bigger picture in mind is a great place to start. When it comes to God's promises and His faithfulness to His people, we should always keep the bigger picture in view. In Scripture, we see evidence of God's covenantal faithfulness to His people from the very beginning.

## CREATION

The book of Genesis records God's involvement in creation as well as His ongoing commitment to His people. In Genesis 1, we are reminded that God created Adam and Eve in His own image (Genesis 1:27; Latin "imago Dei"). God blessed the couple, and they were given authority to fill the earth and to subdue it for God's good purposes (1:28-29). In addition, Adam and Eve were placed in the garden of Eden to live in it and were given the responsibility to work and keep it (2:15). Adam and Eve lived in a kind of covenantal agreement, serving as God's representatives, or "vice regents," in the world God created.

Adam and Eve's eventual disobedience in the garden ruptured their relationship with God. The image of God in Adam and Eve was still intact but was stained by sin. We are told the same is true for all who follow after them—including us. The world, once characterized by growth and flourishing, was now given to thorns and thistles. Where life was once promised, sin now reigned, leading all under its sway to certain death.

Yet in His kindness and according to His covenantal faithfulness, God did not leave Adam and Eve in death and despair. By providing clothing to cover their nakedness

and their shame, God provided a way out. This was a sign of things to come in the fulfillment of the gospel. God provided for Adam and Eve and their family lineage a way to live and walk in freedom, out from the crushing weight of sin and disobedience.

## COVENANT

Despite God's kindness and mercy, His people persisted in rebellion. Yet as sin wreaked havoc among them, the thread of God's faithfulness graciously remained. From Adam and Eve's lineage arose descendant after descendant to whom God made and reiterated His covenantal promises.

Abraham, in particular, was called to be the first of God's new people, and God established His covenant with him (Genesis 12; 15; 17). God promised to bless Abraham with many offspring and to be their God. In addition, He promised to bless them with a land. The narrative that follows showcases God's sovereignty and grace as He remains faithful to fulfill His promises to Abraham.

God tested Abraham's faith over the years and eventually blessed Abraham with a son Isaac, who would carry forth the family lineage and thus God's covenant promises. Isaac too was blessed by God when his wife, Rebekah, gave birth to two sons, Esau and Jacob. The younger of the two, Jacob, was chosen by God as the foregoing representative and recipient of God's covenant promises to His people.

Despite his faults (Genesis 25; 27), Jacob remained a focal point of God's covenant commitment to His people. We are reminded through Jacob's dealings with God that God is faithful to His promises even when we are

not. In Jacob's case, God granted him twelve sons who would become the tribes of Israel (Genesis 29–30; 35). Carrying forth a biblical pattern, and despite daunting obstacles, one of the youngest sons, Joseph, became a great leader among God's people and blessed the entire world through his God-given wisdom (Genesis 37–50).

In addition to the creation story and the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs, the book of Job provides yet another window into faith lived out among God's people. The life of Job, God's servant chosen to be tested by Satan, offers a glimpse at God's sovereign and merciful care amidst extreme suffering. Stripped of everything he held most dear in life, and despite persistent temptation to sin against God, Job maintained his faith and integrity through unimaginable trials. And God remained faithful to keep and uphold Job even in the midst of his suffering.

Through these foundational narratives of creation and covenant, we see that God's presence and peace are not reserved for mountaintop experiences alone. God will be with us in the valleys as well. God's faithfulness is the big picture making sense of this puzzle of sin, struggles, and suffering. And through it all, He is faithful to lay the ground work and to point us ahead to His promised solution and Savior—Jesus Christ, in whom God's grace and love are steadfast and sure.

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**Mike Brooks** serves as associate pastor at Hope Fellowship Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mike is interested in all things New England and holds a PhD in Historical Theology from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mike and his wife, Paige, reside in the Boston area.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

# UNIT 01

# FOUNDATIONS



GENESIS 1–11





MEMORY VERSE

“Just as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ  
all will be made alive.”

–1 Corinthians 15:22



# GOD CREATED HUMANITY

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 2:7,15-25

## CONTEXT

In the beginning, in Genesis 1, God created the heavens and the earth. In six days, God created the domains of sky, sea, and land and filled them with lights and living creatures. But for all the wonder of the created world around us and the universe beyond us, the Lord made human beings as the pinnacle of His creation. We were created, both male and female, uniquely in the image of God. The world was created for humanity and humanity for the world, a realm to steward together in God's name. And God declared it all to be "very good" in His sight. In Genesis 2, the Scripture zooms in on the creation of the man and woman God made in His image.

## KEY CONCEPT

### **God created humanity for relationships.**

As you examine Genesis 2:7,15-25:

- Identify how we ought to relate to God and others because of how God created humanity.
- Contemplate the changes that ought to occur in your life if you believe in the Bible's account of the creation of humanity.



## TIMELINE

The Eternal God Creates (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

Day 1: Light/Day and Night

Day 3: Land and Plants

Day 5: Fish and Birds

Day 7: God Rested

Day 2: Seas and Sky

Day 4: Lights/Sun, Moon,  
and Stars

**SESSION STUDY: Day 6: Animals and  
Humans (zoom in with Genesis 2:4-25)**

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Genesis 1:1-13
- Day 2:** Genesis 1:14-2:3
- Day 3:** Psalm 8
- Day 4:** Genesis 2:4-17
- Day 5:** Genesis 2:18-25
- Day 6:** Psalm 148



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 2:7,15-17

### GOD CREATED HUMANITY AS SPECIAL AND WITH PURPOSE.

*Circle the actions (verbs) performed by God in this passage.*

**7** Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. . . . **15** The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

#### • CHRIST CONNECTION •

First Corinthians 15:45-49 quotes Genesis 2:7 and makes an explicit comparison between “the first man Adam” and “the last Adam,” or Jesus. The former is a man of dust, and we all take after his image, being descendants of Adam by birth. The latter is a man of heaven, and we will bear His perfect image through faith in Jesus crucified for our sins and raised again.

**Key Concept:** God created humanity for relationships.

God created humanity in His image (Genesis 1:27), an honor bestowed upon nothing else. So we as people are unique and special amongst God's creation. For this we should be grateful. God created us and blessed us—we exist and are alive because God has breathed in us the breath of life (1:27-28; 2:7). And so, as God declared, it is good to be alive (1:31).

**What are some ways you can use your breath to honor the God who created you in His image?**

Before we let our uniquely created status go to our heads, let us consider our bodies. We aren't made of gold, silver, or precious stones. Rather, the Lord formed humanity from the dust of the ground (2:7). From this humble beginning, a body fashioned out of the dirt, then infused with the breath of God, humanity was elevated by God, first to life and then to a responsibility.

The Lord planted a garden in a place that we know as Eden (2:8), and He took the man He had formed and placed him in that garden for two reasons. One, to provide food for the man (2:16). The Lord created this man, and all humanity, with the need for food, and the Lord provided abundantly for that need in Eden. And two, God placed

the man in the garden to work it and watch over it (2:15). This was to be the perfect realm for humanity's expanding rule as those made in God's image (1:28).

Yet the man was to rule as a steward under the ultimate authority of his Creator and Sustainer. To ground this reality for the man, God raised up and identified one tree in Eden among all the other trees and commanded the man not to eat of that one (2:17). The consequence of disobedience would be death.

**How can our work today reflect our status as stewards under God's ultimate authority?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 2:18-25

### GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS TO BE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.

*Identify the three main scenes in this passage and briefly summarize each.*

**18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” **19** The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. **22** Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken from man. **24** This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. **25** Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

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#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**MAN:** Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God’s creation.

So God took a rib from the man and fashioned it into a woman, a companion who was like the man yet distinct and different, and she became his wife (2:21-24). For the work of tending the garden and multiplying to fill the earth, this woman would be the man’s “helper” (2:18). We must not classify this role as slavish or subservient but as a role of honor and dignity, one that reflects God’s image, for God Himself is called a “helper” in Exodus 18:4.

**What are some ways God’s people should honor God for the good gift of gender as male and female?**

The first man and woman God created set the pattern for a husband and wife to join together and become “one flesh” in a relationship of love, sacrifice, submission, and respect (Ephesians 5:22-33). The fruit of marriage was expected to be a family with children and then a community obeying the Word of the Lord. As a result of Adam’s sin (Genesis 3), we don’t always see these intended outcomes, yet the Lord remains faithful, even through childlessness, unintentional singleness, and loneliness. Through the love and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has raised up a community in the church to love and help one another. And in the church, we are united with one another and supremely with Christ.

**How can your group help others who feel lonely and isolated?**

**GROUP EXPERIENCE**



**CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

*Based on Genesis 2:7,15-25, how should we relate to God?  
How should we relate to others?*

**GOD**

**OTHERS**



What is one insight you gained from this activity that you need to think more about?





**Key Concept:** God created humanity for relationships.



## HEAD

What are some ways your life should change if you believe in the Bible's account of the creation of humanity?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 148, noticing how every aspect of God's creation should praise their Creator. Pray through Psalm 148, focusing on praising God for His work of creation.

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HEART

What in your life leads you to isolation? How can the community of Jesus in the church help you to resist temptation? To enjoy fellowship?



## HANDS

How will you reflect God's image in your work and relationships with others this week?

