



Connect Discussion Guide

1/31/21 Message | Tyler Myers | Genesis 2:8-25

Key Scriptures:

[8-9] *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

[10-14] *A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

[15-17] *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

[18-23] *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,*

*"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."*

[24-25] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

- Genesis 2:8-25

Message Highlights:

- In the Bible we discover a journey from garden to garden. From the garden Genesis, through the gospel garden and onto the final garden in Revelation.
- We were made to WORSHIP...we were designed to CREATE...we were commissioned to STEWARD. So often, the missing piece is the environment where that happens best!

- God wants us to find our “garden,” a sacred space where we can live with him while walking through a broken world.
- It is through relationship with Jesus that we experience the presence of God, the experience of living with the God who is *with us*.

Conversation Starter:

- The story in Genesis 2, the Garden of Eden, is the grandest of creation stories, thus reflecting a major component of our God and maker’s nature. God designed us, too, to be creators! Whether you feel creative or not, talk about one way God may be urging you to creatively glorify him this week.

Discuss the Message:

1. Today’s sermon equipped us to see the beginning of the historical narrative of God with the end in mind. Together with your group, compile a list of as many new insights/observations as you can find that you gleaned about the story of the Garden after viewing it in the context of the big picture.
2. We get to see how God delights in freely creating by reading Genesis 2:8-9, “...And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food...” How does this part of God’s character give you hope and lead you to worship our good God? Further, share some ways you’ve observed this part of God’s character in this current season in your life.
3. Genesis 2:16-17 shows us the first time God commanded man; read these verses and observe how God’s first commands have to do with creating boundaries. How does establishing boundaries in our work, social, spiritual and personal lives aid us in stewarding well the gifts God has given us?
4. We’re currently living in between the original garden of delight God created and the garden of luxury God is moving all things back to. Take some time to consider the tensions we face living in between the gardens, and talk about what implications these tensions pose for the way we steward our time in between the gardens.
5. Tyler urged the church to find their own garden, or sacred space, in which we are to worship, create and steward, while walking through a broken world. Do you already have your garden, or sacred space, with God, or do you need to find one? What does your time with Jesus in this sacred space look like?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for making a way for us to live in your sacred presence through our relationship with Jesus, your Son. We desire to worship you and to give you the glory you deserve. We want to join you in the work of re-creating your Kingdom on earth, here and now. Guide us by your Spirit to be good stewards of all that you have entrusted to us. Help us to find the space in our lives to walk with you and to enjoy your presence as we look forward to the day when your Kingdom has come in full. Amen.