

Family



Week 1: God's Design for Family

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- Who was part of your family growing up?
- Who is someone who has modeled a healthy family in your life? What did they do that stuck with you?
- When you hear the phrase "God's design for family," what emotion does that bring up? Why do you think that is?

INTRODUCTION

This week's sermon opened a new series on Family by turning to the very beginning of Scripture – Genesis 1 and 2 – to ask a foundational question: why did God create family in the first place? Long before sin entered the world, God designed marriage and family not primarily to make us happy, but to reveal who He is and to cultivate a people who reflect Him to the world. Whether you're married, single, widowed, or somewhere in between, these passages have something to teach each of us. As we look together at Genesis 2:18-25 and Genesis 1:26-28, we'll see three ways God's design displays His glory – we are made to mutually complete one another, to bear His image together, and to be fruitful and multiply. And we'll wrestle with a harder question too: are we willing to embrace the boundaries that come with something this beautiful?

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Genesis 2:18-25

Discuss:

- Narrate what is happening in this passage. What do you notice God highlighting to you? What is new or different that you might not have noticed before?
- The Hebrew word translated "helper" (ezer) is also used elsewhere in Scripture to describe God himself. Why might that be significant for how we understand the role?
- What do "leaving and cleaving" (v. 24) and being "naked and unashamed" (v. 25) teach us about the priority, permanence, and vulnerability God designed into marriage?

Read: Genesis 1:26-28

Discuss:

- What does it mean for humanity – male and female together – to be made "in the image of God"? How does the relationship between a husband and wife display that image in a unique way?
- Why might "be fruitful and multiply" be a feature of God's design rather than an afterthought? How should that shape the way we think about having, or wanting, children?

APPLICATION

- How do these passages shape your feelings about marriage and family in your current life stage? Is there anything the Holy Spirit is highlighting to you in this discussion?
- Where do you find yourself resisting the design God has for family and relationships? What's underneath that resistance – hurt, distrust, a desire for autonomy, something else?
- If you're married: in what ways has your marriage reflected "mutual completion" this year? Where has it felt more like competition or isolation than partnership?
- If you're single: how does this passage shape the way you think about the family of God – the church – as a place to belong and reflect His image, whether or not marriage is part of your story? How does this passage shape your desire for marriage?
- Many of us carry pain from broken or difficult family experiences. How might God's original design – rather than our family history – be allowed to shape what you hope and pray for in your relationships?

PRAYER

- Thank God for designing family and relationships to reflect His own character, and ask Him to help you see His fingerprints even in imperfect family situations.
- For those who are married: pray for a spirit of mutual honor and completion – that you'd see your spouse as a gift rather than a project.
- For those who are single, divorced, or widowed: pray for a deep sense of belonging in the family of God, and for hope in whatever the future holds.