

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 2: September 20-27

Genesis 2

The second chapter of Genesis gives us foundational information about God's plan for mankind. Here, we read a more specific description of how and why God made the first humans. The divine plan for marriage is established in Genesis 2:24. This chapter also describes the Garden of Eden and the first prohibition given to man, that he "must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:17).

Read Genesis 2:1-3

The first three verses of chapter 2 should be the last three verses of chapter 1 because they describe the seventh day of the creation week which began in chapter 1. Genesis 2:4 begins a more detailed description of how and why God made Adam and Eve. Critics claim that the book of Genesis contradicts itself because it contains two different accounts of creation. However, these different accounts are describing the same event from different perspectives. Jesus taught that the accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 are in perfect harmony by quoting from both chapters and applying them to the same historical event (Matt. 19:4-6).

Read Genesis 2:4-14

1. How is Genesis 2:4 similar to Genesis 1:1?

Bible scholars debate whether verse 4 is the end of the first account of creation or the beginning of the second account of creation. However Paul Kissling explains how verse 4 is a transition verse that both closes the first account and introduces the second account.

This is the first instance of the introductory formula which the author of Genesis uses to start new sections of the book. In every other instance the Hebrew phrase translated here as "This is the account of introduces the ensuing narrative or genealogical material. But in this particular case it seems to serve a double function. It introduces the account of the creation in the garden and the Fall (2:4-3:24), and it closes off the creation account in Genesis 1:1-2:3.¹

¹ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 138.

2. How does the text describe the earth before God made man? (2:5-6)

The author is setting the stage for the Garden of Eden in verse 8. This passage is not describing all vegetation on earth but those plants that require special cultivation.

3. How did God create man in verse 7?

The Hebrew word for "man" is *adam* (אָדָם). The Hebrew word for "ground" is *adamah* (אֲדָמָה).

4. Where did God place Adam in verse 8?

5. What were the two trees in the middle of the garden? (2:9)

6. What was significant about the river that flowed out of the Garden of Eden? (2:10-14; see also Ps. 36:8-9; 46:4; Ez. 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-3)

Read Genesis 2:15-17

7. Why did God put Adam in the Garden of Eden? (2:15)

8. What command did God give to Adam? (2:16-17)

Read Genesis 2:18-25

9. What did God say was not good? (2:18)

10. How did God make the birds and the land animals? (2:19)

In chapter 1, there is an emphasis on the sequence of when God made all the different lifeforms on earth. In chapter 2, however, the focus is not on when God made all these lifeforms but how He made them.

11. What job did God entrust to Adam in verses 19-20?

Not only is man entrusted with the cultivation and protection of the Garden of Eden, now he is given the great privilege of naming all the animals. Bruce Waltke notes how this passage illustrates part of what it means for man to "rule over" the animals. He writes,

Adam assumes the lead in naming (prior to the creation of the woman). Following the cultural mandate (1:26), Adam imitates God and brings the world under his dominion. In the order of creation, humans are lower than the heavenly beings and higher than the animals (Ps. 8:5).²

12. How did God create the first woman? (2:21-22)

13. What did Adam say when he first met Eve? (2:23)

Verse 23 is the first recorded words of mankind and it is a poem or a song about the first marriage. In this song, Adam gives titles to both his wife and himself. The Hebrew word for woman or wife is *ishah* (אִשָּׁה). The Hebrew word for male or husband (translated as “man” in this verse) is *ish* (אִישׁ). Both of these words appear for the first time in this verse.

14. What would be the result of man becoming united with his wife? (2:24)

15. What does verse 24 tell us about God’s plan for marriage and families?

Genesis 2:24 is the foundational verse for the biblical definition and doctrine of marriage. Malachi, Jesus, and Paul all quote this verse when they proclaimed God’s plan for marriage (Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:22-32).

16. Why were Adam and Eve not ashamed about being naked?

17. What can we learn from this chapter about working and resting?

18. Why did God use both the dust of the earth and His breath to make man a “living being”?

19. How can you encourage someone who is alone this week?

20. What part of creation will you thank and praise God for today?

Sermon Notes 9/20/20

“Adam and Eve”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 2?

1. Enjoy the gifts of _____ and _____.

Genesis 2:1-3

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 2:15

Genesis 2:19

2. Walk _____ with God.

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 1:26-27

Psalm 8:3-9

3. _____ and _____ God’s word.

Genesis 2:16-17

Proverbs 3:5-6

Romans 6:23

4. Honor God’s plan for _____.

Genesis 2:18

Genesis 2:21-24

Matthew 19:4-6

Ephesians 5:28-32

² Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2001), 89.