

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 2:4 – 3:24

(Sunday, September 20)

1. What is your image of the most perfect garden? Where would it be? What would it have in it?

2.
 - a. What can we learn about God from the way He provided for man a garden, a mighty river, many trees for food, and a helper fit for him (see 2: 8-24)?
 - b. When have you seen God's generous provision in your own life— for basic needs as well as pleasure and joy?
 - c. How well do you feel that God understands your needs and desires?

3.
 - a. Who was your first heart-throb? What was life like with, and without, that special person?
 - b. What was "not good" about Adam being alone? Why did Adam need "a helper fit for him"?

4. The woman was given rule over the rest of earth's creatures along with the man (see 1: 26-28). The woman's task was to be a "helper" (see 2: 18, 20), something only the man's own flesh could be. Consider 1: 28; 2: 15, 18, 24.
 - a. Is the "helper" role exclusive to just the woman? Why or why not?
 - b. What do you think a helper was meant to be and do?

5. The first marriage is found in Genesis 2. Paul says that Genesis 2: 24 is a reason why sex outside marriage is a perversion of God's intent for people (see 1 Corinthians 6: 15-17).

How does extramarital sex pervert Genesis 2: 24-25?

6. The temptation of Eve gives us insight into some of the schemes with which the Enemy also attacks us.

How might a Christian experience a similar temptation today?

7. The couple's actions and words in 3: 7-13 reveal how knowing good and evil affected their inner natures.
 - a. Why did they want to cover themselves (see 2: 25; 3: 7)?
 - b. They hide from God because they were naked and it made them afraid (see 3: 8-10). What is it about being naked that made them afraid?
 - c. Why did they each shift blame to someone else (see 3: 12-13)?
 - d. When have you tried to "cover up" your sinful behavior? Hide from God? Shift blame to someone else? What motivated you to do so? How well did it work?

8.
 - a. From this story, how would you define sin?
 - b. Why is obedience such a key aspect of the relationship between God and people?
 - c. In what ways is our obedience to God connected to our eternal salvation?
 - d. How would you explain sin to someone who asks, "Why did Jesus have to die?"

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Genesis 2:23-25

²³ 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 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, how I praise You that in Your grace and wisdom You chose to redeem the human race, by grace through faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Your Son... our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help me to trust implicitly in Your Word of truth - and to depend on You in all things, for You are good and gracious towards the children of men... and Your loving-kindness endures from one generation to another - in Jesus name I pray, AMEN.