

02

GENESIS 2:7-9,15-25

A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

It's hard being a human, isn't it? It's as if we come pre-packaged with a desire for home, purpose, and genuine relationships. When we don't have those things, we experience pain. Sometimes that pain is severe, and sometimes it's more like a dull ache. What do we make of this? Genesis 2 zooms in on the day God created humanity, giving us insight into our origins that can help us understand why we are the way we are. As we navigate the difficulties of being a human, it helps us to see that God gave the first humans a home, a purpose, togetherness, and a boundary to protect it all.



CENTRAL **truth**

God gave the first humans a home, a purpose, togetherness, and a boundary.



EXPLORE

scripture

GENESIS 2:7-9,15-25

GENESIS 2:7-9

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. **8** The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.

9 The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 2:15-17

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."

GENESIS 2:18-25

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.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE GENESIS 2:18

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

GENESIS 2:4

DWELL

After Moses described God's creation of everything and how He rested on the seventh day, he "zoomed in" on the sixth day, the day when God created humanity. But between the big overview and the "zoom in" moment, there's Genesis 2:4. This verse functions like a declaration: these are the people God made, and this is their story.

↑ What does this declaration reveal about God?

↓ What does this declaration reveal about people?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out Genesis 2:18 on a piece of paper. Then, "take a picture" of it with your mind and try to say the verse to yourself a few times without looking.

PRAY

Praise God for being the Creator! Ask Him to reveal ways you are prone to forget this truth about Him.

day 2

GENESIS 2:5-7

DWELL

In Genesis 1, God created the world by His word, but in Genesis 2:5, it's clear that He designed the world to be dependent upon human care. Before God ever created man, He gave man purpose! God also created man differently than He created other parts of creation: using earth (the Hebrew word for man is similar to the Hebrew word for earth¹) and with His own breath. The Creator God formed humanity like an artist shapes a piece of art.

↔ What does the text reveal about humankind?
About humankind's relationship with work?

→ How can today's text inform how you view
other people?

MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 2:18 on a note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Ask God to help you see His artistry when you look in the mirror and when you look at other people. Ask Him to help you see humanity as both a humble and honored part of creation.

³ "The Hebrew Origins of Adam's Name and its Connection to the Ground," Hebrewversity, accessed June 5, 2023, <https://www.hebrewversity.com/hebrew-origins-adams-name-connection-ground/>.

day 3

GENESIS 2:8-17

DWELL

The garden of Eden was lush and luxurious! Obviously resting there would be enjoyable, but working there would be enjoyable, too. This place would thrive under the man's care, and the man would thrive while caring for it. Of course, this thriving was dependent upon the man's honoring God's word. The same word that made the heavens and the earth was also used to create a life-giving boundary for humankind.

↻ Using your own words, describe the garden
of Eden. What was it like?

↑ What does the garden of Eden and God's
boundary reveal about Him?

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words of Genesis 2:18, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but when something is weird, it helps us remember!

PRAY

Ask God to help you understand His Word as a life-giving force in your life.

day 4

GENESIS 2:18-21

DWELL

With all the repetition of “it was good,” it probably startled the original audience to hear “it is not good” in verse 18! What could possibly be not good in paradise? Being alone is a terrible thing, even in the midst of perfection. Humanity was created to be with God—and to be with other humans. God first revealed this need to the man, and then He addressed the need by creating woman.

← What do you think the first hearers learned about relationships from this story?

↪ How does this story compel you to pray for people in your life who are lonely?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of Genesis 2:18 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at these letters.

PRAY

Praise God for the gift of relationships! Thank God for seeing man’s need before man knew he had that need, and thank God for providing an solution.

day 5

GENESIS 2:22-25

DWELL

The first time a human speaks in Scripture, it’s poetry! After man saw so many creatures who were not like him, the sight of woman turned him into a wordsmith. He could immediately tell that they were similar, saying, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” God designed marriage relationships to have a set-apart kind of togetherness, though that of course is never fully experienced in our imperfect world. Even still, it’s helpful to know that the first couple was together in a vulnerable yet safe and wonderful way.

↔ The first marriage began in perfection, which we’ve never known. Even still, how can this passage form how we view marriage relationships?

↪ How does this story compel you to pray for married people in your life?

MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is Genesis 2:18, and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you on the verse at some point today.

PRAY

Thank God for His expertise as a designer of relationships. Ask Him to give you wisdom to process this text.