

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Three: The Beginning of Family and Work Life – Genesis 2:4-25

Overview

- 1) Which phrase is repeated ten times in the book of Genesis? Who, or what, is presented each time (see Genesis 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1, 9; 37:2)?

- 2) Read Genesis 2:4-25. “LORD” (Yahweh) is the personal name for God that was revealed to Moses (the writer of Genesis) at the time God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3:13-15; 6:2-3). Which verses in Genesis 2:4-25 use the name “LORD God” (note that this title did not appear in chapter 1)?

- 3) List ways in which Genesis 2:4-25 show God’s personal involvement with His creation. Then describe at least one way in which He has recently shown His personal involvement in your own life.

Reread Genesis 2:4-14.

- 4) According to verse 7:
 - a) From what existing materials was the physical body of man created (see also Genesis 3:19, Psalm 103:14, and 1 Corinthians 15:47)?

 - b) What unique, personal contact did God have with man upon his creation?

- 5) Consider the description of Eden in verses 9-14.
 - a) What specific items are mentioned in verse 9 as having been in the Garden of Eden?

 - b) According to verses 10-14, what further enhanced the glorious garden?

- 6) Perhaps at some time you have visited an especially beautiful, formally or informally designed garden.
 - a) What do you picture when you try to imagine a garden that God Himself personally planned for man?

- b) Record as many ways as you can think of in which Adam and Eve would have benefited from the gift of the garden (both from the perspective of usefulness and of enjoyment).
- c) Name at least one gift God has given you for which you will thank Him today.

Reread Genesis 2:15-17.

- 7) The command in verses 16-17 expressed a great range of freedom with a very narrow limitation. What one and only limitation was Adam given and what was the result if it was breeched?
- 8) According to verses 15-17, what was the man's role in the Garden of Eden?
- 9) The man and woman were assigned work before sin entered the world. For which of your responsibilities do you need this reminder that work (in and of itself) is a God-given gift?

Reread Genesis 2:18-20a.

- 10) Verses 19-20a tell us about another dimension of the man's work. What was it and why would God have assigned this work to Adam?
- 11) Based on what we have learned about God so far, why was it not good for the man (who was made in God's image) to be alone?

12) For which human “helper” do you need to show greater appreciation as a gift from God? How might you do that this week? (Although the Genesis text refers specifically to a marriage partner, you may include others in your answer.)

Reread Genesis 2:20b-25.

13) What precedents are established in verses 20b-25?

14) Read Isaiah 62:5; Ezekiel 16:1-14; Hosea 2:19-20; Ephesians 5:25-33 and Revelation 21:9. What does God intend the marriage relationship to portray?

15) Based on what you discovered in Question 14, write a specific phrase or thought you can begin incorporating in your prayer life with regard to your own marriage, or if you are single, with regard to either a future spouse or the marriages of those you love.