

## Notes And Helps to Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to lead a group through the treasures of God's word! You may feel overwhelmed or inadequate, but you can do this! The leader notes are designed to help you grow in knowledge and love for Christ and for you to help pass what you have received to your group. Here are some suggestions to help equip you to grow in your teaching and leading ability.

- These lessons could simply be read, and a group would receive something but that is not how they are designed. The notes are designed to grow you as a leader so you might tailor the lesson for the needs of your group. Some groups may not have much of a knowledge base in the bible, so the concepts must be brought down to their level. Other groups may have a large knowledge base and you may challenge them with more information. The key is to know your group. If you begin leading a group in one way and find that it is not connecting, it is alright to modify and bring down or raise up the level of information.
- The more preparation you do the stronger you will be as a leader. Let the study material be a joy for you! Let it feed you as you prepare! The more you are fed the more you have to give to your group.
- There is no set time on how long a lesson may take. Lessons could be slowed down and take several weeks to finish. Perhaps in leading a group, one question captivates the group and leads to a fruitful conversation. If that happens, that is good! You are in no hurry. If you can finish the material in a week, then great! But if it takes several, that is great as well! The important thing is that they receive deeply from the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray about your lesson! Pray as you prepare! Pray as you teach! Remember we do not teach or exercise our gifts in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens the heart and mind. Pray for the Spirit to move in your heart and the heart of the group.

May our merciful Triune God bless your study and your group that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Christ,

Prison Discipleship Ministry

## Lessons in Life -- Lesson 3 – Where Did You Come From – Part 3?

**Introduction:** We live in a world that says (1) You came from nothing. (2) When you die, you go back to nothing. If we believe this, then what does the present mean? It means nothing so we live as if nothing matters. We live for wine, women, and song. Yet everyone knows that murder, stealing, lying, and adultery are wrong. How are we to balance the conflict between our conscience and the values of the world? The Bible begins by telling us where we came from.

From a Bible read, read Genesis 2:4 through 2:25. Read it several times first from whatever translation you have. Then find a modern Bible translation such as The New King James, English Standard Version, or New American Standard. Read it several more times and answer these questions:

**Genesis 1 tells the account of how God created the world in seven days. Genesis 2:4-25 goes back and fills in some details. We will look at 2:18-25 in this lesson.**

From Lesson 1 in this series review how many times God said “good” in Genesis 1. How does the goodness of God’s creation relate to verse 18?

Are the animals suitable as a “helper” for Adam in verses 19-20? What does Adam naming the animals tell us about him?

How did God create woman? Why do you think that God made woman from the side of man?

What does Adam think of woman (2:23)?

Why does Adam say that a man is to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife? How can parents affect a marriage negatively?

Read Matthew 19:1-9. Jesus quotes Genesis 2. What does Jesus think about polygamy? Divorce? Sex outside of marriage? Living with a woman outside of marriage? Two men or two women getting “married”?



Jesus died for sinners. Will He forgive your sins relating to marriage?

Pray and ask God for wisdom in how to go forward in light of your sins of the past regarding marriage.

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First, we see that the text tells us that “It is not good for man to be alone.” Humanity from the very beginning was made relational. We are made to be relational with God and with our neighbor. This does not mean that it is the duty of all people to be married (see 1 Cor 7 and how Paul speaks about singleness and the honor he gives it), but it does mean that it is not good for man to be alone—not relational with anyone. We were made as humans to need other humans. It is good for us to seek relationships in our lives.

Second, marriage is good! And moreover, it is good to desire marriage! God sees you when you wish for a spouse and says that is a good desire!

Third, marriage is not the man to lord over the wife, or the wife to lord over the husband. The wife is a helper to the husband. In order for her to be a helper, they must be on the same team. They must work together. Before the fall, there was no sin that harmed the marriage relationship; they worked perfectly together. They were “naked and unashamed” as they had no sin to harm their relational bond (2:25). But after the fall, in the world we find ourselves, sin has and does damage that relationship. Men can be tyrants just like women in relationships. But marriage is designed as the closest bond of humanity working together in this world as we walk with Christ. That is what marriage is: two sinners helping each other walk in the grace of Christ through this world.

There are many more good things we can say about marriage. Perhaps ask them why marriage is good and why God is good for giving us the gift of it?

Are the animals suitable as a “helper” for Adam in verses 19-20? What does Adam naming the animals tell us about him?

No, the animals are not a suitable helper for Adam (v. 20). Humans are not animals. No animal, no matter how much we care for it could complete the complex nature of humans. Animals are only concerned with security, food, and procreation. Humans on the other hand dream, aspire, think, feel deep emotion, and communicate with words, and have physical needs that an animal could never fill. A helper fit for humans would be another creature made equally in the image of God who could think, feel, experience the goodness of their physicality, and dream with Adam.

How did God create woman? Why do you think that God made woman from the side of man?

God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and while he slept God created woman with one of the ribs of Adam (vvs. 21-22).

Matthew Henry (1668-1714) gave this amazing observation, “The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

The woman comes from man so he should honor and cherish his wife as he would his own body.

What does Adam think of woman (2:23)?

Adam is overwhelmed when he sees his wife. The first thing out of his mouth is poetry. She is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. She is equal to him in image of God, worth, dignity, and he is overwhelmed by her beauty. This is someone he wants to honor, protect, love, serve, and provide for.

Why does Adam say that a man is to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife? How can parents affect a marriage negatively?

Marriage is the beginning of a new family. It is a man and a woman beginning their own walk with Christ in their new family. There are so many things that could be mentioned on how parents can affect marriage negatively but also ways that the wisdom our parents have for us can help our marriage. Perhaps discuss ways that parent’s influence could be negative on a marriage. Interact with their ideas.

Read Matthew 19:1-9. Jesus quotes Genesis 2. What does Jesus think about polygamy? Divorce? Sex outside of marriage? Living with a woman outside of marriage? Two men or two women getting “married”?

According to Jesus, the only marriage he instituted and approves of is the marriage between one biological man and one (biological) woman. He does not approve of any other unions. This includes premarital relationships. Physical intimacy is a gift given for and in the bonds of biblical marriage.

Jesus died for sinners. Will He forgive your sins relating to marriage?

This is your chance to preach the gospel to them. Preach to them that Jesus lived the life we could not live. He was perfect under the law. He died the death our sins deserve—including the sins we have in our marriage and outside of marriage—and rose from the grave conquering sin, death, and the devil for us. When we repent and trust in Christ, all our sins are forgiven, and we are right with Christ. We are Christ’s bride now! We may have sinned so much in our marriage that there is no chance to save our marriage, but we cannot out-sin Jesus’ ability to save us from the wrath of God and for Jesus, our bridegroom, to take us as his eternal spotless bride.

Pray and ask God for wisdom in how to go forward in light of your sins of the past regarding marriage.