

## *Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 4 ~ Marriage Designed*

In our first lesson we learned how to practice love. Then we looked at God's idea of submission and last week we learned about marriage as a godly unit. We were challenged to identify and discuss an area of concern in the ways of relating to a spouse. Share how this went.

In today's lesson, we will look at the first marriage in the history of the world. We will see God's intentions for this relationship.

1. Why should we learn about marriage?
2. Read *Genesis chapters 1 and 2*. What stands out to you about God's creation of humans?
3. Read *Genesis 1:26-27*. Who was created in God's image?

What does this tell us about who God is?

4. Why did God give Adam and Eve dominion over the animals, but not over each other?
5. Read the following scriptures and comment on God's idea about people controlling others:

*1 Samuel 8:6-7*

*Luke 22:25-26*

*1 Peter 5:3*

**Interesting fact: Domestic abuse is all about one partner dominating the other.**

6. Read *Genesis 2:7 & 18*. What did God say was not good?
7. Read *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*. Why are two better than one?

**The closest companionship is marriage - but all humans need companionship, even if not married.**

8. Read *Genesis 2:19-20*. Did Adam find any animal that was a suitable companion to help him?
9. The Hebrew word for helper in this text is 'ezer,' which means rescuer and supporter. It is mostly used to describe God. – Read these scriptures that use the word ezer (help or helper):

*Psalm 33:20 & Psalm 70:5*

Does the word 'helper' in these passages imply subservience to the person being helped?

Do you believe that God intended one gender to be more valuable than the other?

Read and comment on Galatians 3:28.

10. Read *Genesis 2:21-23*. God created a suitable companion for Adam. Why was it necessary that woman be created from man, rather than from the dust?
11. Read *Genesis 2:24*. What does oneness in marriage mean to you?
12. What does it mean to leave your parents when you marry?
13. God could have created multiples for Adam or Eve. Why didn't He?
14. Do you have any relationships in which one person dominates the other? If so, what will you do to bring about a change?



**Your church's Domestic Kindness Action Team (DKAT):**

- Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living and
- Connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

*If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind*