

Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 4 ~ Marriage Designed

Read all parts of the lesson (in black print) aloud in the group. Don't read answers in red unless there are no other appropriate answers given by group members. Start with question numbers circled in red.

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. H

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? *It's a model of the intimacy God wants with us; The first relationship God created was marriage; every person will get married or has been married or knows someone who is married*
2. Read Genesis chapters 1 and 2. What stands out to you about God's creation of humans?
Created in God's image; not good to be alone; the two are one flesh; told them to rule the world; God's creation of humans was very good
- ③ Read Genesis 1:26-27. Who was created in God's image?
Humans - male and female

What does this tell us about who God is?

He is neither male nor female, but has characteristics of both

- ④ Why did God give Adam and Eve dominion over the animals, but not over each other? *Marital Relationships were designed to be mutual*
- ⑤ Read the following scriptures and comment on God's idea about people controlling others:
1 Samuel 8:6-7 God's best for Israel was for them to not have a king
Luke 22:25-26 The greatest must be the least
1 Peter 5:3 Shepherds are not to rule, but to be examples
6. Read Genesis 2:7 & 18. What did God say was not good?
being alone; No match/helper – no equal – no peer
7. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Why are two better than one? *More reward for labor; help when one falls; keeping warm; overpowering an attacker*

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? **No**

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):

Psalms 33:20 & Psalm 70:5. Does the word 'helper' in these passages imply subservience to the person being helped? **No** Do you believe that God intended one gender to be more valuable than the other? **No**

Read and comment on Galatians 3:28.

In Christ, male and female are equal

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? ***So that they would sense their connection with each other, as a mother feels a bond with a child from her womb***

11. Read *Genesis 2:24*. What does oneness in marriage mean to you? ***Mutual love & commitment; respecting each other's differences***

12. What does it mean to leave your parents when you marry?
the primacy of the couple; spouse before parents

13. God could have created multiples for Adam or Eve. Why didn't He?
God's plan is exclusivity (1 man – 1 woman)

14. Do you have any relationships in which one person dominates the other? If so, what will you do to bring about a change?

Read the following:



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