



## Week Two – ADAM & EVE: The First Romance

### CONNECT

- What was your favorite pet? Why was it your favorite?
- If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?
- Who was your first 'crush'?

### WORD

#### **Genesis 2:7, 15-25 (NIV)**

*"<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being... <sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." <sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>19</sup>Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."*

### THOUGHT

We now turn to the portion of the Genesis narrative where the beginning of humankind is recorded. What is written here is pretty much just the headlines with little detail considering the epic nature of creating something as amazing as the earth and as complex and human life. Although the record is far from exhaustive, it is highly instructive. There is much we can learn about God, the world he's placed us in, ourselves, and the nature and purpose of this gift he's given us called life. Today we will focus on what the story of Adam and Eve can teach us about marriage. Marriage plays a large, inescapable role in all of our lives, regardless of our marital status or our cultural, economic, or ethnic background. As Tim Keller, in his excellent book, 'The Meaning of Marriage' states, "There has never been a culture or a century that we know of in which marriage was not central to human life." (Tim Keller with Kathy Keller, 'The Meaning of Marriage' (Dutton, 2011), p.35)

## DISCUSSION

1. If you could watch a clip of just one scene from this story, what would it be?

- God forming Adam out of the dust
  - A walk-thru of the Garden of Eden
  - God forming Eve out of Adam's rib
  - Adam and Eve meeting for the first time
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2. What do you see as the significance of Adam being created first and Eve second?

- Adam is the original, Eve is the afterthought
  - Eve is the improved version of Adam
  - Adam came first and therefore has the lead role
  - Eve, being the last thing created, is the pinnacle of all creation.
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3. Why do you think God said, 'it is not good for the man to be alone' (v.18)?

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4. What do you think it means when it says that Adam and Eve 'were both naked, and they felt no shame' (v.25)? How would you describe their relationship?

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5. How would you characterize the relationship between God and Adam in this passage? What might that teach you about your relationship with God?

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6. How has this study of Adam and Eve affected your view of the opposite sex? Of romance? Of marriage?

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What is one way in which you might act or think differently toward God this week as a result of this lesson?
- What is one way in which you might act or think differently about romance, marriage, or members of the opposite sex as a result of this lesson?

## PRAYER

- Ask God to bring you into a relationship with him that is closer to his original intent. A relationship similar to the one he had with Adam and Eve.
- Ask God to help you see the value and purpose of marriage the way he originally intended.
- Whether you are married or single, ask God to help you relate to members of the opposite sex the way that he originally intended, (especially your spouse if you are married).