

# 'Desperate Households'

Things are not always as they seem...

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

### Ice Breaker ?

If you (like the kids in the T-mobile commercial) were listed as an animal in their 'fav-5', which animal would they say you most physically and emotionally resemble? Why?

### Be Sure to:

- Pray before you begin. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Read the text slowly to **OBSERVE** what is truly being said.
- Mark any key words, questions, themes, etc. that you wish to explore further.
- Try and understand the author's perspective and time period as you **INTERPRET**.
- Find and share the timeless **APPLICATION** to your life.
- Close with personal prayer & prayer for the church/world.

<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 beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. 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 of the air and all the beasts of the field.

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 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> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. ""

## Observation Questions

1. Looking at the context of this passage (in and around it), what has been going on? Who is involved in this story? Where are they? When is this occurring? Why is this passage included in the Bible?
2. What (according to God) was 'not good'? Why? What did God do to solve the problem? Is this always God's solution? What do the actions of God in this text tell you about His heart and His ways?
3. Where did God create Adam and the animals from? How was his creation of Eve different? Why might this be significant?
4. What was Adam's reaction to God's 'surgical' provision? What does his proclamation and God's explanation tell us about the proper role and relationships between a husband, their parents, and his wife?
5. What else do you observe?

## Interpretation/Application Questions:

### Pray Together:

Please take some time to pray as a group and...to pray personally throughout the week.

### Calvary Requests:

- Healthy marriages & families at CBC.
- Unity for parents as they raise healthy kids and set healthy boundaries & examples.
- Healthy, growing small groups where people really connect to God and one another!
- Our ongoing www.buildinghomebase.com campaign & building project.

### Personal/Group Requests

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### Calvary Bible Church

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1. God arranged the first marriage and defined the marriage roles in Genesis and in Ephesians 5:21-33. Of all the ways he could have met Adam's need (including Himself, children, a buddy, work, hobbies, a pet, etc.), He chose to provide a 'suitable helper' in Eve, his spouse. What are some of the ways (as you look at the biblically defined roles and responsibilities) that spouses are to serve God and one another?
2. The Biblical formula for proper intimacy (oneness) within a marriage is a combination of "LEAVE" and "CLEAVE." What does that mean? Besides our parents, what other types of things might we have to 'leave' in order to truly 'cleave' to what/whom God wants us to hold on to? How could failing to do either of these things impede biblical oneness (with God and one another)?
3. How does the "kid-centric" parenting philosophy of the last several decades actually hinder, not help, this leave/cleave process? How has the temptation to 'idolize' our children actually contributed to the decline of God's plan for marriage and family? Where do you see this flawed philosophy taking us?
4. Which area (as talked about this weekend) do you feel you have (or will have had) the most amount of work to do in as you move towards a more God-centric and 'spouse-centric' family system? Why? What do you feel led to change or do differently as a result? What challenges do you anticipate needing to overcome?
  - a) Giving priority attention to your spouse
  - b) Setting a spouse friendly "Bed-time"
  - c) Carving out a regular 'Date Night'
  - d) Cutting out some activities for greater connection
  - e) Connecting with God, together
  - f) Other?
5. How can your group members most help you in this process?

### Memory Verse(s) for the Week:

**Mark 10:6-9**

*"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*