



THE MARRIAGE MYSTERY FOUNDATION

Genesis 2:18-25

READ THE TEXT - What phrases, words, or instructions stick out to you?

NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE (v. 18)

1. If Adam had remained alone, how would this have affected his ability to accomplish God's mission to be fruitful and subdue the earth (1:28)? What does this tell us about the importance of marriage in accomplishing God's mission?
 - In your marriage, how has your spouse helped you accomplish God's mission?
 - Does this verse mean that singleness is inherently bad? Why or why not?
2. The second task God gave man in Genesis 2:15 was to "work it and keep" the garden. God saw that Adam needed a helper, so he created a woman. How did God create Eve to complement Adam?
 - How does God create man and woman to complement each other in marriage?
 - Can same-sex relationships reflect this design?

LEAVE AND CLEAVE (v. 24a)

1. What is the right understanding of verse 24a? How do we reconcile this command with the fifth commandment to "honor your father and your mother"?
 - Parents, how have you encouraged your married children to "leave and cleave"? What are some challenges to allowing this process?
 - Couples, what are some challenges in leaving and cleaving?
2. How can a single person "leave" their parents in a similar way to those who are married?

ONENESS (v. 24b)

1. How have you seen others demonstrate a godly oneness in their marriage? What are consequences that arise when a couple is not living in unity?
2. How would you encourage a couple experiencing discord in their marriage?

NAKED AND UNASHAMED (v. 25)

1. Verse 25 closes the chapter by describing the relational, emotional, and sexual openness between the man and his wife. What sins can hinder openness and bring shame into a marriage?
2. What are some steps for a husband and wife who are experiencing shame to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation in their marriage?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What is marriage?
2. Think of a married couple you know—whether it's mom and dad or someone else you're close with. How does this couple work together? What might their relationship show you about God?
3. Consider doing a puzzle with your children. As you do, share how putting a puzzle together is similar to what God does with married people. He puts them together to make one beautiful picture.

APPLICATION

1. If you are married, write a brief note to your spouse in order to express your gratitude for how they complement you.
2. Make a list of qualities in which you are deficient. Ask God to show his power in your weakness as it relates to those areas.
3. Couples, develop a list of single people you are close to and pray for them to find rest and satisfaction in Christ. Singles, make a list of some married couples you're close to and do the same thing.
4. Make a double-sided list. On the left, write down characteristics of a marriage that is striving to glorify God. On the right side, write down consequences that can arise when a married couple is not striving to glorify God (i.e. not living out the characteristics on the left side of your list).