



## Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Weekly Devotionals | August 31

### **OPEN with prayer.**

Begin this devotional exercise by finding a quiet place where you can spend time with God in His word. Before reading, pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes and heart to what God wants to say to you.

### **READ Genesis 2:18-25.**

- If you've been using these devotional materials each week of the Genesis sermon series, you've spent a lot of time reading Genesis 1-2. As you focus specifically on verses 18-25, record any observations that strike you.
- Verses 18 and 20 have a key phrase. In the NIV it is translated "suitable helper." What comes to mind when you think of Eve as Adam's "suitable helper"?
- The word "helper" in verses 18 and 20 is the Hebrew word "ezer." "Ezer" is used several other times in Scripture. Look up the following verses. (In the NIV you will find "ezer" translated as "help" in each of them): Deuteronomy 33:7, Psalm 33:20, Psalm 70:5. Do these verses change your perspective on the word "helper"? If so, how?
- How does the creation of Eve differ from the creation of Adam? From the creation of the other animals? What do you think is the significance of this?
- Adam authors the world's first love poem in verse 23. Spend a moment reflecting on this poem. What do you notice?

- In verse 24, the author of Genesis interrupts the creation narrative with a commentary on what this account teaches us about God's plan for marriage. What does this concise definition teach us?
- Read verse 25 and Genesis 3:7. What was damaged in the marriage relationship when sin entered the world?

In the books of Matthew, Jesus is confronted by a group of Pharisees about marriage and divorce. Read Matthew 19:1-12 to see how Jesus responds.

- How does He use Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24 to answer the Pharisees' question?
- How does Jesus' attitude toward marriage and divorce contrast with that of the Pharisees?

In Genesis 2, God sees that it is not good for man to be alone and creates the woman, and marriage, as a response to this need. But in Ephesians 5, Paul explains another purpose for marriage – as a representation of the relationship between Jesus and His church.

- Read Ephesians 5:21-33. In what ways can a marriage be a picture of the love between Jesus and His people?

## **PRAY**

An examination of these passages on marriage can raise a *lot* of emotions; your own life experiences and situation will often impact your responses. Sit quietly before the Lord. Tell Him your thoughts. Ask Him your questions. Invite Him to show you how He wants you to respond to these passages. And thank Him for His tender, faithful love for you.