

Love, Dates, Heartbreaks, and Kids

Lesson 3

Genesis 2:18-25; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

April 3, 2022

Cultivating a Fantastic Marriage

INTRODUCTION

It's not uncommon to hear how much work it is to put on a wedding. It takes months of planning to ensure it comes together without a hitch. It's often a relief when the wedding is over, but what comes next takes even more effort.

Marriage takes constant work to ensure that it is successful. Many people enter marriage thinking that loving each other is enough. Falling in love is the easy part. Staying in love through the ups and downs, disappointments, unexpected challenges, and everything else that life throws at you is the hard part. This is when it becomes important to not lose sight of God's plans for marriage and to turn to the instruction manual that He so carefully laid out for us.

***Memory verse: The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
—Genesis 2:18***

Pray, and read Genesis 2:18-25 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. At what conclusion did God arrive? (Genesis 2:18-20)
2. What did God do to provide a companion for man?
(Genesis 2:21-22)
3. What was man's response to meeting his companion for the first time? (Genesis 2:23)
4. What happens when man and wife are united?
(Genesis 2:24)
5. What do we have if we don't have love?
(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. What is the purpose of marriage? (Genesis 2:18; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 11:11-12)
2. In what ways is marriage a reflection of our relationship with God? (Genesis 1:26-27; John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5; Ephesians 5:22-27)
3. How should we treat our spouses? (Matthew 6:14-15; John 15:12; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Colossians 3:12-14)

4. What steps can we take to cultivate a strong marriage?
(Ecclesiastes 9:9; Matthew 18:19-20; Hebrews 13:4;
1 Peter 3:7, 4:8)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. What does your relationship with your spouse/
partner/significant other say about your relationship
with God?

2. What area of your relationship is most challenging?
Why do you think that is?

3. Write a prayer asking God to help you overcome the
challenging area of your relationship.