

# GROUPS

sermon guide

## RIOTS & RIVALS - 09/07/2025 (Mike Wilson)

### MAIN IDEA

#### BACK TO THE GARDEN

### TALK ABOUT IT

- **ICEBREAKER:** What's one space that you fiercely protect and why? What does this reveal about what you value or what brings you peace?
- How does Genesis 2 challenge your understanding of leadership and roles in relationships? What happens when God's order is reversed or ignored?
- Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek first the kingdom". In what ways are you tempted to seek other things first—security, affirmation, control, or success? How has that affected your peace or relationships?
- Are there any relationships (romantic, friendships, family) where you've expected someone to carry weight only God can handle? How has that created stress, frustration, or unmet expectations?
- How do you typically handle conflict—avoidance, aggression, or resolution? What's your "default mode" when things get tense?
- Can you think of a time when you insisted on being "right" at the cost of peace or unity? How might choosing to be "righteous" instead of "right" have changed the outcome?
- *What are we really fighting about?* - Are there arguments you've had (or avoided) where the deeper issue was feeling unseen, unheard, or disrespected? How do surface issues (like chores or schedules) often hide deeper emotional or spiritual needs?
- What would it look like to "fight for peace" in your relationships instead of "fight to win"?
- How present is God in your daily life—actively guiding your decisions, shaping your prayers, and influencing your direction? Is He woven into everything, or someone you call on only when things fall apart?
- Who makes up the "community strand" in your life—the people who walk with you, speak truth to you, and help you grow spiritually? Are there couples, friends, or mentors who consistently build you up and call you higher?
- What makes it hard to invite others into your journey—whether in marriage or singleness? Is it pride, shame, fear of judgment, or something else?
- Which of the three points—Order, Conflict, or Community—do you feel God highlighting for you right now? Why?

### KEY SCRIPTURES

#### GENESIS 2:20-25

### NEXT STEPS

- **ECOUNTER:**
  - [ALL Church Prayer](#) - September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
    - Childcare available 0-5yrs
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - **Seasonal Groups** - Registration will open August 31<sup>st</sup>. Check out our website for further details.
  - Growth Track Week 2- Discover Your Design
    - Fireside Room at 10am
- **EXPAND**
  - Ready to take the next step? Allow us to help you plug into a [DREAM TEAM](#). Reach out to Jill Thayer at [jillt@sagehillchurch.com](mailto:jillt@sagehillchurch.com) for information on serve opportunities.

### GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** Where in your life have you experienced unrest because God wasn't first—and what changed when He was?
- **Journal:** Think about a recent conflict—big or small. What was the deeper heart issue underneath it? Now imagine sitting with God in the Garden—what do you think He would say to you about that situation, the season you're in, and what He wants to restore in your heart? How might He be inviting you to respond with righteousness instead of just being "right"?
- **Application:** What's one intentional step you can take this week to strengthen your "community strand"—whether through vulnerability, accountability, or inviting someone to walk with you?