

Genesis: The Story of God & His People

Genesis 2: The Garden of Eden

→ *Survey: Let's understand the background and context of the passage.*

Last week we learned about God's power, creativity, intentionality and so much more as He created all things simply by speaking them into existence. He made order from chaos and light from the darkness. He created sky & sea, land & vegetation, and every creature on earth, culminating in the creation of mankind. "In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27). All that God made was very good.

Tonight we zoom in from a broad lens of creation, to focus on God's creation on day 6, learning about Adam - which comes from the Hebrew word *ā'dām*, meaning "mankind." This name reflects the way in which he was formed - *adamah* - the Hebrew word for ground. Likewise we will learn about Eve (who is not yet named). Just like Adam & Eve, you too were made in His image.

Genesis will help shape our understanding of who we are by helping us understand who God is, as we learn more about His character and His creation. We each have a unique role in God's story to build His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. We know things aren't always the way they are supposed to be, but let's look back to God's design for the world and mankind as we read Genesis 2 together.

Read: Genesis 2 (NIV)

→ *Observe: Let's take a close look at what the text is saying.*

1. After creating the heavens and the earth, what does God do on the 7th day (v. 2-3)?
2. What are the reasons no shrub or plant had sprung up yet (v. 5)?
3. What material does God use to make man (v. 7)? How did the man become alive (v. 7)?
4. Where does God put this man (v. 8)? What types of trees are in this garden (v. 9)?
5. How was Eden watered (v. 10)? How many rivers does this water separate into (v. 10)?
6. What purpose did God give man in the Garden of Eden (v. 15)? What command does God give man here (v. 16-17)?
7. In verse 18, God defines something as 'not good' for the first time. What is 'not good' and what is God's plan to remedy this?
8. Summarize 19-20: What happens here? Was the helper found?
9. How does God make this helper (v. 21-22)? What is the man's response (v. 23)?
10. How are the man and woman described as the chapter ends (v. 24-25)?

→ *Interpret: Let's seek to understand the meaning of this text in its original context.*

1. What is the relationship between God and mankind? What do you notice?
2. Why did God make man? What is their purpose?
3. Why didn't God make the woman the same way He made man? How does this help us understand the relationship between man and woman?
4. What is shame? What comes to mind when you hear that word? What does it mean then that the man and woman were naked and unashamed (v. 25)? Why is this significant?
5. After 2 chapters of Genesis, how would you describe the world God has created? Does this sound like the same world you live in? Why or why not?

→ *Apply: Let's explore where the text intersects with our lives and our world.*

1. Do you rest, or Sabbath, like God did? Why or why not? If not, how might that reveal a misunderstanding of God's purpose for your life? What are some practical ways you can prioritize rest in your life going forward?
2. God placed man in the garden 'to work it and take care of it' (v. 15). How does knowing that work is part of God's good design change your perspective on your work & studies?
3. How does verse 25 help us understand God's original design for community and relationships? Are the people in your life where you have this full unity and vulnerability? Why or why not? In what ways can you grow in vulnerability in your relationships this week?