

In the Beginning

Date: 01.11.26 | God Made People for a Purpose
Scripture: Genesis 2

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God made families and wants us to take care of the world He made.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God's plan in the Bible shows us that families began with Adam and Eve, and God gives families the responsibility of caring for the world He created.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God's plan in the Bible shows us that families began with Adam and Eve, and God gives families the responsibility of caring for the world He created.

STUDENTS:

God's most loved creation—people—are called to steward the world and reflect His character and authority.

ADULTS:

As God's beloved creation, we are entrusted with the responsibility to steward His world and to reflect His character and authority in our lives.

MEMORY VERSE

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16–17



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Man and woman are uniquely designed for one another. The woman is taken from man and named in relationship to man. Since the woman was created from the side of the man, the one-flesh union in marriage is really a kind of re-union. – Kevin DeYoung

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



Where *Genesis 1* gives a panoramic view of creation, *Genesis 2* zooms in on the creation of the first human couple and provides greater detail on *Genesis 1:27*. In *Genesis 1*, we see God's power and majesty as Creator (Elohim), while *Genesis 2* presents Him in a more personal and relational way as Lord (Yahweh). The same God who spoke galaxies into being now forms mankind with His hands and breathes life into his lungs.

Genesis 1:26-31 corresponds with *Genesis 2:5-7*. At this point in the story, no shrubs or plants were growing because God had not yet sent rain, and there was no man to irrigate and cultivate the land. Though God's spoken word had already brought forth vegetation, the growth and care of the earth awaited the creation of humanity.

In *Genesis 2:7*, God forms the first man, Adam—a name derived from the Hebrew word adam, meaning “man.” Unlike the rest of creation, which God made by His spoken word, man is formed from the dust of the ground. Then, in a deeply intimate act, God breathes the breath of life into Adam's nostrils, and the man becomes a living being. While being made from dust does not make man superior to creation, being given God's breath certainly sets humanity apart. Man alone bears the image of God and carries His likeness and Spirit.

In *Genesis 2:8-14*, God provides a perfect home for Adam by planting a garden in Eden. The name Eden suggests luxury, beauty, and delight—a paradise filled with every tree that was pleasant to the eye and good for food. A river flowed out from Eden and divided into four rivers, marking it as a rich and central place on earth. The mention of gold, bdellium, and onyx stones points to the land's great abundance and beauty.

In *Genesis 2:15*, God places Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it.” This work was not a punishment but a gift—a sacred task of worship and stewardship. God's idea of worship is broader than

ours. Adam's tending and keeping of the garden was part of honoring God's design. The same Hebrew words for "work" (*abad*) and "keep" (*shamar*) later describe the service of priests and Levites in the tabernacle. This shows that Adam's work was priestly; he was both a gardener and a guardian of God's sacred space. God entrusted him with leadership, responsibility, and care for creation—a pattern that would extend to his relationship with Eve.

Up to this point, everything in creation had been described as "good" and "very good." But in *Genesis 2:18*, for the first time, God declares something "not good": "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." This statement reveals God's design for human community. A "helper" (*ezer*) is not a lesser being but one who supplies strength where it is lacking—someone perfectly suited to complement the other. Just as God exists eternally in perfect relationship within the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—He created mankind to live in relationship with Him and with one another.

Before forming the woman, God brings every animal before Adam to be named (*Genesis 2:19-20*). Naming the animals demonstrates Adam's authority and dominion over creation, as God had commanded in *Genesis 1:28*. Yet as Adam names each creature, he realizes that none are like him, not one could be a true companion or helper.

Then, in an act of divine grace, God causes Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he sleeps, God takes one of his ribs and forms a woman. When Adam awakes, he immediately recognizes her value and beauty, exclaiming, "This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (*Genesis 2:23*). Adam names her Eve, meaning "living" or "mother of all living." Eve was the perfect companion—equal in value, distinct in role, and united with Adam in purpose.

Together, Adam and Eve were to reflect God's image on earth. In *Genesis 1:28*, God blessed them and gave two responsibilities: (1) Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and (2) Rule over and care for all creation. *Psalms 8:3-8* echoes this same truth—that humanity was crowned with glory and honor, given dominion over the works of God's hands.

Adam and Eve were perfect creations living in a perfect world—a perfect man and woman in a perfect garden, enjoying a perfect relationship with a perfect God. They were innocent and without sin,

lacking nothing and needing nothing. God had supplied every good thing for their joy, purpose, and satisfaction. They lived in harmony with one another and with their Creator, fully content in their worship and work.

Marriage and family were part of God's perfect design from the beginning. God created only one woman for one man—not several women or another man—establishing the divine pattern of heterosexual, monogamous marriage as the foundation for human society. Jesus Himself affirmed this truth in [Matthew 19:4-5](#), quoting [Genesis 1:27 and 2:24](#): “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” Paul later draws from the same passage in [Ephesians 5:25-32](#), describing marriage as a picture of Christ and His church.

The family is God's building block for culture and community. Just as marriage was central in the Garden of Eden, it remains vital today. Marriage is a gift from God, and children are a blessing from Him. One of the greatest ways believers can glorify God is by living out marriages that reflect His faithful love and by raising children who know and honor Him. Our families are our first ministry and one of the most powerful ways we can show God's love to the world.

Ultimately, [Genesis 2](#) reminds us of God's personal care and relational heart. The same God who shaped Adam from dust and breathed life into his lungs would one day take on flesh and breathe new life into our souls through Jesus Christ. The first Adam was given life by God's breath; the second Adam—Jesus—would give His life so that we might be restored to fellowship with our Creator. In Him, the image of God that was marred by sin is made new.

TELL THE STORY

[Genesis 2](#)

[Genesis 2](#) retells the story of creation from [Genesis 1](#), but provides more specific details about how God created people and the world they would inhabit. After God finished creating the heavens and the earth, He rested on the seventh day. He blessed this day and made it holy because His work was complete ([Genesis 2:1-3](#)).

Then God formed the first man, Adam, from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and Adam became



a living person (*Genesis 2:7*). God planted a garden in Eden and placed Adam there to live and work. The garden was filled with beautiful trees that were good for food, and a river flowed from it, dividing into four smaller rivers. The land was full of good things like gold, bdellium, and onyx (*Genesis 2:8-14*).

God gave Adam a special job: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (*Genesis 2:15*). God also gave Adam a command—he could eat from any tree in the garden except one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned him that if he ate from that tree, he would surely die (*Genesis 2:16-17*).

Then God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” (*Genesis 2:18*). God brought all the animals to Adam so he could name them, but none were a perfect companion for him. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and made a woman from it. When Adam saw her, he said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (*Genesis 2:21-23*).

God created man and woman to live in a relationship with Him and with one another. Their marriage showed God’s design for love, unity, and partnership.

This story points us to Jesus, who brings new life to all who trust in Him. Just as God breathed life into Adam, God gives new spiritual life to everyone who believes in His Son. Jesus, the “second Adam,” restores our broken relationship with God so that we can know Him and walk closely with Him again (*Romans 5:18–19; 1 Corinthians 15:45*).

REBUILD THE STORY

1. What did God do on the seventh day after He finished creating the heavens and the earth? *Genesis 2:2-3*
2. How did God create the first man? *Genesis 2:7*
3. Where did God place the man, and what was special about that place? *Genesis 2:8-14*



4. What job did God give Adam to do in the garden? *Genesis 2:15*
5. What command did God give Adam about the trees in the garden?
Genesis 2:16-17
6. Why did God say it was not good for man to be alone, and what did He plan to do? *Genesis 2:18*
7. What did Adam do before God created the woman?
Genesis 2:19-20
8. How did God create the first woman, and what was Adam's response when he saw her? *Genesis 2:21-23*
9. How are human beings different from everything else God created? *Genesis 2:7; Genesis 1:26-27*
10. How should we treat the world that God made?
Genesis 2:15; Psalm 24:1
11. What does it mean for human beings to "subdue the earth" and have dominion over it? *Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:6-8*
12. In what ways could people misuse or abuse this responsibility?
Romans 1:25; Genesis 3:17-19
13. How can we carry out this calling responsibly?
Colossians 3:23; Micah 6:8
14. What does this story teach us about God's design for marriage?
Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:31-32
15. How does it affect our lives if we believe God created families?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Genesis 2 reveals that God is not only the powerful Creator but also a personal and loving God who desires a relationship with the people He has made. Out of all creation, only human beings were formed in His image and given His breath of life. God made people special so they could know Him, love Him, and live in fellowship with Him. Even though sin later broke that perfect relationship, God's plan has always been to restore it. Through Jesus—God in human form—the Creator came to live among His creation and make a way for us to be brought back to Him. The same God who breathed life into Adam now gives new life to everyone who trusts in Jesus.



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Praise God, our Creator. Thank Him for creating us and giving us purpose. Ask God to strengthen our family units and help our families to be image bearers in all things. Ask God to direct us in caring for His creation.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Genesis 1:2-27, 2:18-25