



Ancient Stories Part 1

Adam and Eve: Staying United

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER (Optional):

- What do you think are some of the most common misconceptions about marriage?
- What are some factors that contribute to these misconceptions?

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What do you understand to be the purpose of a Christian marriage? How does that purpose compare with the goal of the Christian life in general?

GO TO THE SOURCE: Genesis 2:18-25, 3:8-12; Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

GOD'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IN YOUR MARRIAGE IS UNITY

Read Genesis 2:18-25 and answer the following questions:

- The first relationship between created beings was the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve, which we read about in Genesis 2:18-25. Why do you think God referred to Eve as a “helper” in verse 18? What does this tell us about the purpose of marriage in God’s kingdom?
- What basic aspects of marriage are noted in verse 24? Why is each one important?
- How would you characterize the relationship between Adam and Eve? Between God and man? What makes this kind of fellowship possible?

SATAN’S HIGHEST PRIORITY IN YOUR MARRIAGE IS YOUR DIVISION

Read Genesis 3:1-15 and answer the following questions:

- What impact did the entrance of sin into the garden have on Adam and Eve’s relationship?
- What deeper issue did Adam and Eve’s shame about their nakedness reveal?
- What were Adam’s and Eve’s explanations for their disobedience?
- What is Satan’s purpose in temptation? How does questioning God’s goodness play into temptation? Questioning God’s authority? Questioning what we deserve?
- What consequences did Adam and Eve face as a result of their sin? How have you personally experienced the effects of these curses even today?

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE DIVISION PROOF

Read Matthew 19:4-6 and Ephesians 5:22-33 and answer the following questions:

- Why do you think that the Pharisees were so concerned about what things were lawful to divorce a wife over? How does this make marriage more meaningful?
- Why does God specifically say that “a man will leave his father and mother” when he is married?
- According to Ephesians 5:22-33, how do Paul’s instructions to husbands and wives in these verses show God’s plan for redeeming marriages from sin? What role does the gospel play in this process?
- What has always been God’s intention for marriage? What is each person’s responsibility in reaching God’s ideal? What do you think it means for couples to be joined together and to become one flesh?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said that the joining of a husband and wife illustrates a mystery about Christ and the Church? Why would living in true unity make it a delight to be married?

MAKE IT COUNT

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- What stands out to you about the big picture of marriage throughout Scripture?
- What significance does marriage have on our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What is something you can do this week to show love and respect to your spouse? To someone in your family?

PRAYER

- Praise God for the gift of marriage. Ask Him that you would hold marriage in honor both through your support of true and lasting marriage and in your

compassionate appeal to people who have embraced something contrary to God's design.

- Pray that the marriages of this church, as well as all other relationships, would send a profound message of the love of Jesus to the world.
- Pray that those who are now single and thinking of marrying will understand the significance of matrimony, and will be open to the counsel of those who are wise in our church.