



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

The story of the first marriage, and where the trouble started, tells us a lot about why relationships go awry, even today. This narrative is here to show us what was, how it came to be what is, and the way back again – look at that sentence! No wonder relationships are so complicated.

Something in the initial discussion between Eve and the serpent sounds a lot like the thinking process that goes off in our heads when we are trying to figure out how relationships get messed up. How many times have we thought, “I didn’t really say that” or “Did he/she really mean that?” We all tend to try to create our own reality – our own truth. That is due to the fact that sin has disconnected us from the reality-Giver, or the Creator of relationship, starting with friendship with him.

G.K. Chesterton is said to have said, “A great man knows he is not God, and the greater he is, the better he knows it.” That’s the key to this narrative, and the way back to each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you first found your way back to God, what truth was most surprising for you to discover, or re-discover, about him? Why do you think you had missed that characteristic of your Creator?
2. Read Genesis 2:24 – 3:5 together, all at one time.
 - a. What is your understanding of “oneness” in the Bible and how important is it? Can you think of other Scriptures that teach “oneness” in relationships besides marriage? (ala the church? Among Christians?)
 - b. In **v.25**, what does “nakedness” represent? [Note: in **3:1** the word “crafty” is the same root Hebrew word. Does that shed light on both words?]
 - c. What do you see in Eve’s affirmation of God’s command (**3:2-3**)? Is it strong/weak? Does she open a door of any kind? How does this shed light on the nature of temptation or why sometimes people we respect fall terribly? [Note: Check out **1 Corinthians 10:11-13** for more insight]
 - d. What is the ultimate affront to God in the serpent’s claim in **v. 4-5**? What are its implications for your life and my life? Do you every find yourself thinking this way?
3. Do you find yourself thinking about God’s love for you and the things he has commanded in the midst of an average day? Why or why not? How does that affect your life? Read again **John 13:34-35** – what light does this narrative shed on Jesus’ new commandment?
4. Is there a relationship, you need to ask your fellow followers to pray for you in? It is a matter of seeing reality and what’s going on in that relationship from God’s perspective? We all know that’s where things get off track. Ask your group to pray.

MOVING FORWARD

God intended you and I to live in relationships that are deep and strong – first of all with him, and then that filters out to our marriages (if we are married) and certainly to our friendships in Christ. Take a step today to strengthen your relationship with him first and then all others. Don’t wait until there’s a crisis.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“It was I...taking them by the arms... but they did not realize it was I...” Hosea 11:3