

Relationships: Who Thought of This Relationship Thing?

Genesis 2-4

November 4, 2012

Colossians 1:3-4; 3:12-13

Who thought of this relationship thing?

1) The Lord made you for relationships Gen. 2:15-18

- God is a help Ps. 27:9; 33:20-22, but God is not my personal servant
- Relationships are to mirror the Trinity
- Singleness is good for serving the Lord 1 Cor. 7:8, 32-33

2) The Lord knew relationships would be messy Gen. 3:1-19

3) The Lord can resolve any relationship problem Gen. 4:3-26

- People often get jealous or envious Gen. 4:3-5
- People often take matters into their own hands Gen. 4:6-8
- The Lord allows messes for His holy purposes Gen. 4:9-10
- Without the Lord, relationships often crumble Gen. 4:11-15
- The Lord offers clear hope for restoration Gen. 4:25-26

The Lord created us for relationships to show when He is the center, relationships work well!

- Enter relationship with Jesus by trust dependence on Him.
- Enter relationships with others with Jesus at the center.
- Relationships are designed to lead others to Jesus.
- Maintain relationships by listening to understand.

Message Based Discussion Questions

Get to know your friends:

- 1) What did you learn about relationships from your family growing up or from friends in grade school?

Digging deeper:

- 2) Why do you suppose God makes the relationship comment in Genesis 2:18, but doesn't bring the woman to Adam until after Adam names all the animals?
- 3) What do you suppose Adam's response to seeing Eve was really like in Genesis 2:23?
- 4) Walk through Genesis 3. What were all the relationships that are mentioned in the chapter? What spiritual lessons can you learn from those good and bad relationships?
- 5) Why do you suppose Adam and Eve had a son like Cain? Were they bad parents? They didn't have TV, internet, games or many other distractions from the world. What were some of the principles God was trying to teach through Genesis 4?

Implementing this message into your life:

- 6) How could you use Genesis 3 and 4 as sources of encouragement to a young married couple, rather than a picture of discouragement?
- 7) You are giving counsel to a couple people in a difficult relationship. When and how would you bring the principles from 3) on the reverse side?
- 8) What will you take from these chapters of Genesis to help you in your relationships?