



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discover the Design Series, Lesson 6

Lesson Title: God Designs the Family

Take Home Point: God fits us together in families.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever made anything from a pattern? If you sew, you likely used a pattern; or perhaps you've built a playset or deck using a blueprint of some kind. How do you think the dress or playset or deck or whatever will turn out if you ignore the pattern and do it your own way? Aren't you glad the assembly workers in the automobile plant followed the engineers' patterns when they built your car?! We use a pattern to ensure that the result functions properly and safely, just as it was designed to do.

Read: Genesis 2:18-25

Observation (What happened?):

What did God say about Adam being alone? What did he do about it?

At the end of Genesis 2:24, how does God view the relationship of the husband and wife?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think God made the woman from a part of the man?

Do you suppose Adam and Eve were excited to be introduced to each other and become one in God's plan?

Insight:

God puts such rich layers of meaning and purpose in the things he creates. It's one of the wonderful qualities about his revealed plan. Something as seemingly straightforward as creating man and woman and bringing them together presents a pattern with multiple concepts and applications he wants us to know. For example: 1) Marriage joins a man and woman; God didn't make provision for other marriage options. 2) The husband and wife don't just live parallel lives; they become one together. 3) Children are created by a marriage union; God wants them raised in that setting, too. 4) Marriage reflects Christ's love for us – read Ephesians 5:25-33. 5) Becoming one in marriage is so deep and complete that God uses it to describe the relationship of Jesus and those he has redeemed forever – his bride, according to Revelation 19:6-9. Do humans always stick to God's pattern exactly and get it right? No, we live in a sin-polluted world, so we do our best in his power to follow his blueprint and leave the rest in his gracious hands.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one thing you can do to strengthen your family, or another family you know, during the rest of this year. Begin the steps this week to make it happen.

Take a few minutes to thank God for his family pattern and how he works to bring everyone into his heavenly family.

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 6