

a beautiful design

WEEK 7

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1

WOMAN'S PURPOSE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the study guide in your Home Group, be sure to work through the questions on your own before you meet. If your Home Group doesn't meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series. For further study, explore the Recommended Resources on our website.

RECAP: In Genesis 2, God creates man and then declares that it is not good for man to be alone. Out of man, God creates woman to complete the picture of Creation. Man and woman are intended to live and flourish together. While Genesis 2 demonstrates how man and woman are to live and flourish together in marriage, the partnership between men and women is not limited to marriage. Without the fellowship and labor of men and women together, the home and the church will operate in a way that goes against God's beautiful design for the world. Human beings aren't meant to live in isolation; we were created for community.

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 2:18-25

SUMMARY: When God creates woman, He gives her a unique identity and purpose in life. God designs a specific role for woman to fulfill and, by living out that role, to increase human flourishing. She is called "helper." Far from being a demeaning role, the Bible uses this term to communicate the unique strength and ability that God has entrusted to women. Women work together with their male complements to cultivate and exercise dominion over the earth and to spread God's image throughout the world. Without vibrant female engagement and leadership in the home and church, the ministry and power of both will be lacking.

GETTING STARTED

Share about a time when you needed help to get something significant accomplished. What was that experience like?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. When you hear the word "helper," what comes to mind?
2. Which key female leaders have impacted your life?
3. How do single women live out the purpose God has given to them?
4. Make a list of the different cultural and religious views concerning women. How are these similar or different from the Christian perspective?
5. There are some ways in which God's design for women is distinct from His design for men. How and why did God create us similar but distinct?
6. Why do you think some people believe the Bible is sexist? How would you respond to someone who holds that position? What Scriptures would you use in your response?
7. How do you define beauty? Read 1 Peter 3:1-6 and Proverbs 31:30. How does your definition of beauty compare to these verses?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Gather your family for an intentional conversation with your kids about how they should view women and what makes a woman “godly.” Ask them what TV shows and movies think a woman should be like. How is this a different vision of womanhood than God’s? Ask them to give you examples of women they know who are godly. Fathers, talk with your daughters and sons about what attracted you to their mother. Discuss Proverbs 31 together.

MOMENTS: Capture moments where you can affirm your sons when they treat women in respectful ways. For your daughters, point out times when they show evidence of or are cultivating godly character, such as inner strength and beauty.

MILESTONES: Parents, talk to the girls in your family about the difference between being a girl and being a woman. Plan a trip or event to mark your daughter’s eventual transition into womanhood. Consider adding new, significant responsibilities to your daughters to help them understand the beauty of contributing to the well-being of the family. Daughters, initiate a discussion with the women in your life about what areas of your life still require a lot of maturing and growth before you could call yourself a woman.

In the weeks dealing with men and women particularly, it may be helpful to break up into gender-specific groups. On the other hand, groups of single men or women may consider pairing up with a group of the opposite gender. While this isn’t necessary for fruitful discussion, each group’s leaders should consider what method of discussion would be best for their group.

FOR MEN

1. How has culture shaped your view of women?
2. How have you stereotyped your sisters in Christ and measured them by standards that are not biblical?
3. How did your mother shape your view of what a woman should or shouldn’t be?
4. How can you encourage your sisters in Christ toward God’s design for them as women?

FOR WOMEN

1. Who has shaped your view of what a woman should or shouldn’t be?
2. How do you find enjoyment in God’s unique design for you as a woman? Do you ever wish your role was something different?
3. How are women tempted to outwardly rebel against God’s design for them? How have you, personally, been susceptible to that temptation?
4. How can your brothers and sisters in Christ encourage you toward God’s design?

NEXT STEPS

1. Send a note of encouragement to a woman in your life who has pointed you to the gospel through her example.
2. Spend time praying that your church and home would both be places where “it is not good for the man to be alone” is lived out in practical and beautiful ways.
3. Commit to fasting from media that distorts the biblical view of women. Examples may include: songs on the radio, magazines, TV shows, movies or anything that demeans women.
4. Commit to memorizing the following verse this week:

Then the man 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 2:23**