

## APPLICATION

**Consider God as YHWH. Is God your personal Lord? Do you follow his commands? Does he rule and reign on the throne of your life? Does he speak to you?**

### Read Genesis 2:4-2:25

- How are you living out the creation mandate in your life? How might you begin to do this better?
- Do you know God as YHWH? Is he your personal Lord? Is he a mere creator? Is he your master, whom you gladly obey?
- What does Genesis two tell us Adam was created to do?
- Why do you think God put the two special trees in the garden?
- How does Genesis two help you understand the differences between men and women? How are we made?
- The Bible tells us it is not good to be alone. How can you invite people into your life and how can you help others?
- What part of Genesis two is most curious to you?
- What stood out to you the most in this week's sermon?
- What commands of God are you following? What commands are you ignoring? What commands do you need to follow?

### Inductive Bible Study

- Underline verse 17 and 18
- Reference Revelation 22 in the margin next to verse 9
- Circle the word "eat" in verse 17
- Draw a line from verse 7 to verse 22

For Parents: It is good for your children to have both a charge to do something and commands of what not to do. This is good for them, as it is good for us. God gives us the charge of the creation mandate and the command to not eat from the tree. What charges have you given your kids? What commands have you given? Now may be a good moment to implement these if you haven't yet. Try to give one single mandate that will give purpose to your children. Try to give one single command for them that they must not break. Be gracious always!



### Creation Mandate • Session 6

This week we shift from Genesis one and the creation of the Earth in awesome cosmic relief to the intimate forming of man as a relational being. We are now exploring God in relation to us. He is not only a creator but also our personal lord. He speaks and the heavens and Earth are laid out. He speaks stars and planets into existence. He also speaks *to us*. He is a God that talks *to us*. We are going to see in the next few sessions God talking to us and how he is our lord as much as our creator. He talks with Adam, and He gives him both a charge to follow and a command to obey. In other words, *God is a relational God who converses and commands as much as he creates.*

Genesis two is a narrowing in. It is taking the creation of humans on day six and exploring the intimate depths of that in fuller detail.

When God created the world, he made mankind special. He breathed his very breath of life into humans, and he made them in his own image. The question is for what purpose? What's God's plan for humans? What's he intending happens with us? Why are we created?

Genesis two is a deeper dive into the creation of humans and how relationships are vitally important to us. This section of Genesis begins to lay out our relationship with God and with each other. It lays out how we are to relate to other living things of creation, to our work, and even to the Earth itself. So, what is your relationship like with God? How about with others? What's your relationship with your spouse like? What's your relationship to your work like? How do you care for the things under your stewardship?

The **BIG IDEA** this week is what many Christians over the years have come to call the “Creation Mandate” or “Cultural Mandate.” By this, we mean humans have the special role in filling, subduing, and ruling over the Earth. We are to bond together in marriage and procreation, to labor, and to sabbath. This is the mandate we are given in Genesis two. This is the special role God wants us to live.

### **I. A closer look at God**

Genesis two is not a different creation story. It is not even another telling of what happened. Rather, it is a focusing in on *how* and *why* God created humans. It is a closer look at who God is to humans. Genesis one is on the creation of the Earth and Heavens. It is a picture of God distinguishing things and filling things and what purposes those things have. Genesis two is all about the creation of man. It follows the same pattern as chapter one though. It distinguishes male and female, the garden from the rest of creation, the rivers from each other, man from the animals, the two special trees from each other, and even God himself is further distinguished from other spiritual beings.

We see a shift in wording around God. In Genesis one, the word for God is “Elohim,” the divine creator. But now in Genesis two, the word for God is “**YHWH-Elohim**,” which means “Lord God.” This shift in language is meant to communicate to us a shift in focus.

YHWH (yah-whey) is the specific name He gives Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 4). YHWH is the name of God, that is meant to focus our attention on God as a personal lord. He is our ruler and master and relates to us in personal form. In Genesis two this more intimate picture of God emerges. As we march into the first toledot of Genesis 2:4-4:26, we expand our picture of God from powerful creator and divine community to include *intimacy with us and lordship over us*. This is seen in God breathing his very life into Adam and commanding him to not eat from the tree of good and evil (Genesis 2:7 and 2:16).

### **II. The Creation Mandate**

Adam and Eve are created to work and steward creation. They are to take care of this world. This same creation mandate still applies to us today! We are created in God’s image to work and produce good things in this world; to have families, and care for the Earth and the things on the Earth. We have this noble and Godly responsibility.

We are all commanded to do this as best we can in the spheres we occupy. This is not our world; this is his world! We are caretakers.

- a. God gives us work to do. Before the fall, before sin, before death and destitution, God gave us work to do and it is good. Work is good! It is what you were created to do! So, whatever your hand finds to do, do it all to the praise and glory of God (Colossians 3:17, Ecclesiastes 9:10, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:31).
- b. God invites Adam to partner with him in doing work, not the other way around. God doesn’t just give us menial things. He is inviting us to be part of his work! He also watches to see what we do in our work. He is intimately interested in what we do!
- c. Work is part of our worship. Our work is to be our worship of God. “Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

*Our task is to be priests of creation’s praise to God. We, with our minds, wills, hearts, articulate speech channel as it were the praise of the whole cosmos to God. And in that act, we discover who we are meant to be. We are rightly ordered in this beautiful task of image bearing and following the creation mandate. All of creation get rightly ordered as we do this well. We are serving as the intimate, person-to-person, connection of creation to its creator.*

### **III. We see God present us with absolute truth!**

God puts two special trees in the garden and says, “do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:17) We see the first command given. This command is for our benefit, for when we eat of it, we shall surely die. God gives us this command for our safety and security. He is telling Adam and Eve to handle this special tree properly. God made all kinds of trees grow - some pleasing to the eye and some good for food. God told Adam he could eat from any tree he wanted, but he must not eat from this tree! God’s commands are serious! We will see next week what happens when Adam and Eve see the tree as pleasing to the eye, but then go beyond God’s command and eat it. In this act, they fall because they didn’t heed God’s command. They didn’t trust his word but thought they were wise in their own eyes. (Judges 21:25, Proverbs 14:12, Psalm 119:11)