

2024 BIBLE STUDY SERIES
THEME: "GET YOUR HOPES UP!"

APRIL 2024 - GENESIS SERIES: KINGDOM-LED RELATIONSHIPS

Marriage: A Godly Union
Genesis 1:26-28

Topics

- ☐ Reflection Questions
- ☐ Important Emphasis
- ☐ Key Terms
- ☐ Outline
- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Exploring the Text
- ☐ Checking for Understanding

Reflection Questions

A. What do you do reflect the image of God in your relationships?

B. How do you define "family?"

Important Emphasis

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

How do we yield to or take the righteous path for our relationships? The principle that will assist us is the First Law of Mention. This means that our focus is on the First time the term, or the description of a relational institution is established. If we really desire to know how relationships should function, our attention needs to be given to a biblically based model or paradigm. We are seeking the intention of God

here. What is God's desire for your relationship? Where is it evident historically and transacted contemporarily.

Sociological element: Genesis 1 here in this opening text each animal is paired with its own kind. What the Bible articulates as equally yoked. **2 Corinthians 6:14**. This is why it is essential that as we interact in our relationships that they are equally yoked relationships and likeminded. **Romans 15:5-6 & Philippians 2:2**.

Martin Luther "There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage."

Genesis 1:26 Gives us insights and active principles in relationships.

God Established- God desired for these relationships to be in place to fulfill His purpose. How does your relationship fulfill the purpose in the earth for God. Genesis 1:26 Then **God said**, Let us. This established it because God said it.

God Immersive (nature)- The God experience. What Adam and Eve are about to experience is the shaping of their lives into the *Imago Dei* the image of God. But it is *Solo dei gloria* which means that God alone receives the glory. He didn't give you the stamp of His image for your glory he did it for His glory alone. The image of God carries weight in your relationship because it displays the love and the trust that God has for you. **Psalms 8:4**

God's gift- Genesis 1:27b He created him; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them. The first blessing that they received was the blessing of each other. They can enjoy the company of one another. You can't really enjoy the blessings of other things together if you don't enjoy the blessing of one another. There were no houses, there were no cars. God blessed them with each other. What they had within each other was a blessing. To recognize what God has done within a person you must be attentive to actively explore what God has given you through the blessing of relationship. **James 1:17**

God's Authority- There is power that you walk with and authority that you have when you are engaged in fulfilling God led relationships. Powerless relationships are not of God. Counterproductive, lacking communicative expression, and detached from the sacred community are not God led relationships.

Genesis 2:7 This is what some scholars call the second creation story. In the second creation story. The creation of Man leads the way. What are somethings that we discover here that are noteworthy:

Recognition of the differences. Female vs Male
Reproductive delivery. What is delivered!
Results are divine. More of God's image

Shaping- God formed man from the dust **Jeremiah 18:1-6**

Spirit- God breathed into his nostrils **Genesis 6:3**

Stewarding- **Matthew 25:14-30**

Key terms

Ashamed
Bone
Breath of life
Breathed
Created
Dust
Female
Flesh
Fruitful
Image
Joined

Lord God
Male
Mankind
Multiply
Naked
Rule
Sleep
Subdue
Wife
Woman

Outline

Kingdom-Led Relationships (Genesis 1:26-28)

A. Introduction

- a. Kingdom Foundation
- b. Kingdom Connection
- c. Kingdom Focus

B. Man (1:26)

- a. God decided to make man
- b. God determined how to make man
- c. God designated how to occupy man

C. Man and Woman (1:27)

- a. God created man
- b. God created man in their image
- c. God created male and female

D. Man and Woman Blessed by God (1:28)

- a. God blessed them
- b. God assigned them
 - i. To be fruitful
 - ii. To multiply
 - iii. To fill the earth
 - iv. To subdue the earth
 - v. To rule over every earthly creature

E. Life Application

The Bible study series examines Kingdom-Led Relationships, focusing on "kingdom-led marriages." It explores the narrative in the first two chapters of Genesis, highlighting the creation of Adam and Eve as the first husband and wife and the first family.

A. Introduction

- a. Kingdom Connection
- b. Kingdom Foundation
- c. Kingdom Focus

When God created the earth, he created human beings in his own image with the express mission of ruling over creation by caring for it – a task modeled on the kingship of God himself. The significance of all of our work, in our jobs, our homes, our communities, and our churches, is directly related to its _____ with God's work. So then, human dominion over the rest of creation is to be an

exercise of kingship that reflects God's own kingship. The image of God is not a license for arrogant abuse, but a pattern that commits us to humble reflection of the character of God.

The very essence of God is _____, and that essential quality has been imprinted on us as humans. We were made to be in relationship with the creator and with the rest of his creation. God is _____ to everything we believe and everything we love. For this reason, no biblical teaching can stand if it is not linked or connected with the divine being. That is why the first words of the Bible are, "In the beginning God" And then, the very first biblical disclosure we are given is that of the original creation. **(1 Corinthians 3:11)**

We must be kingdom _____. This means that we're living above the circumstances and not under them. A kingdom mindset is focused on Christ more than anything or anyone else. Every thought is shaped with His presence in mind. Getting even more practical, it means considering what Jesus thinks about things more than how we think. **(Matthew 6:33)**

Understanding the Text

1. When God created mankind, what unique characteristic was mankind given to differentiate them from the animals?

2. What essential quality of God's is imprinted on us?

3. What (or who) is a person with a kingdom mindset focused on?

Exploring the Text

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth." (Genesis 1:26 NASB)

- B. Mankind (1:26)
- a. God decided to make mankind
 - b. God determined how to make mankind
 - c. God designated how to employ mankind

Let us make man. In the opening chapter of Genesis man is portrayed as *in* nature and *over* it, continuous with it and discontinuous. Mankind shares the sixth day with other creatures, is made of dust as they are (2:7, 19), feeds as they feed (1:29, 30) and reproduces with a _____ similar to theirs (1:22, 28a); so he can well be studied partly through the study of them: they are half his context. But the stress falls on his distinctness. *Let us make* stands in tacit contrast with 'Let the earth bring forth' (24); the note of self-communing and the impressive plural proclaim it a momentous step; and this done, the whole creation is complete. *Vis-à-vis* the animals man is set apart by his office (1:26b, 28b; 2:19; cf. Ps. 8:4–8; Jas 3:7) and still more by his nature (2:20); but his crowning glory is his relation to God.¹

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (1:27 NASB)

- C. Man and Woman [mankind] (1:27)
- a. God created mankind
 - b. God created mankind in their image
 - c. God created male and female

The beginning of the creation of the human race is marked by the usual "And God said." However, God's command that follows is not an impersonal (third person) "Let there be . . ." but rather the more personal (first person) "Let us make."

¹ Kidner, Derek. 1967. [*Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*](#). Vol. 1. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Whereas throughout the previous account the making of each creature is described as "according to its _____," in the account of the creation of humankind it is specified that the man and the woman were made "in Our [God's] image," not merely "according to his own kind." Their image is not simply that of the human being; they share a likeness to the _____.

The creation of mankind is specifically noted as a creation of "_____." Previously gender was not considered to be an important feature of the creation of the other forms of life, but for _____ it takes on importance. Thus the fact that God created "man" as "male and female" is stressed.

Only human beings have been given _____ in God's creation. This dominion is expressly stated to be over all other living creatures: sky, sea, and land. Thus the text portrays humanity as a special creature different from the rest of the creatures but like God, made in the image and likeness of God.

Understanding the Text

4. The non-human creatures were made according to their _____.

5. Mankind was created in the likeness of the _____.

6. Mankind was given _____ over all other creation.

²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (1:28 NASB)

D. Man and Woman Blessed by God (1:28)

1. God blessed them
2. God assigned them
 - a. To be fruitful
 - b. To multiply
 - c. To fill the earth
 - d. To subdue the earth
 - e. To rule over every earthly creature

It is important to note that the _____ were both blessed by God (1:28) to work together as partners to be fruitful, to multiply, to fill the earth, to subdue the earth, and to rule over every earthly creature. Their purpose was to serve as _____ of God on earth. This creation mandate continues today. It is up to each individual to recognize that God's purpose for your family is to _____ His kingdom. (**Psalm 127:3-5; Jeremiah 29:4-7**)

Our culture stresses the importance of independence, and a social definition of family instead of the theological and spiritual definition of family. The Bible teaches *interdependence* and emphasizes _____. The family is the foundational institution of society ordained by God. It is constituted by marriage and is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. The family is a fundamental institution of human society. (**Genesis 2:20-25**)

Understanding the Text

7. What is God's purpose for your family?

8. The Bible teaches interdependence and emphasizes what?

Life Application

- What will you do to intentionally reflect a Kingdom mindset in your home, church, or on the job during the next week?

- What can the church do to help its members be more Kingdom focused?
