

Leader's Notes
Week of May 13, 2018

NOTES TO LEADERS: *While this series is about marriage, it is designed for those married and unmarried. Some weeks will be very practical and include how tos. Other weeks will include reflections on the Creator of marriage and how this could impact the people in our world.*

STUDY THE WORD

God's design of marriage reflects His character and His purposes. Study the following passages on marriage while considering the Designer.

Read Genesis 2:18-23.

What does God understand about us and our needs? How does naming animals fit in? What might it mean that this is one of the first acts after creation?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *One of the first acts of God in Genesis was to create lasting relationships. This should tell us about who God is – relational. This is because God has eternally existed as three persons in perfect relationships – love and harmony, equality of value and essence, different roles and perfect teamwork.*

God commanded Adam to name the animals. This achieved two things: it gave mankind a role, a sense of value and purpose. Second, it helped him to recognize that Eve was not like other animals and a perfect fit for him to have true companionship.

According to verse 24, what are three essentials of His marriage design? (The Sunday message also focused on these.)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Please use the three specifics Todd uses in the message. These are very clear and powerful truths. This should be an essential in your conversations.*

What do we learn from Matthew 19:3-6 about the meaning of “united” and “one flesh” in verse 24? What would enhance or cause oneness to grow?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *To stay united means a commitment to stay in the relationship. To do this, we must understand that we let go of some things and commit to others. To break this bond would mean leave fractured people. Lots of conversation possible.*

If “oneness” in relationship is God-engineered, what might this say about the Creator/Designer? What might it say about what He wants for and with us?

(See also Psalm 42:1; John 13:34-35; John 14:2-3; 1 John 4:9-10; Revelation 3:20)

NOTES TO LEADERS: You might want to read these verses together. *The Old Testament repeatedly focuses on the idea that we were made to know and be in relationship with God. Psalm 42 expresses our need and drive, John 13 – 14 reminds us that God designed to be with Him forever. 1 John 4 indicates that God loves us and made a way for us to be in a love relationship with Him. Revelation 3 reminds us that God is knocking to enter into a fellowship / love relationship with us.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What are some ways that “oneness” in marriage can be lived out?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Todd gave us a definition that says “Oneness” = **forsaking** one’s former family, **fastening** oneself to his/her spouse and **forging** a new identity together. These three components exhibit what we’ll call “oneness.”*

A conversation these three elements could be helpful.

What are some of the challenges to oneness? What makes it difficult?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Use the definition above to talk about challenges to oneness.*

In John 13:34-35, Jesus told us how people would recognize that we belong to Him. How do our marriages impact our efforts to reach our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *As the bride of Christ and examples of oneness, our marriages should say to world around us that we belong to Jesus.*

His strength and peace to you,
Steve