



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: The First Couple

Suggested Week of Use: December 10, 2023

Core Passage: Genesis 2:7-9,15-25

News Story Summary

Positive: On November 12, Samantha Camenzind went deer hunting with her boyfriend, Cole Bures. They had dated for three years and had bonded over a shared love of hunting. On this morning, Cole let Samantha take the first shot at a large buck. Cole later said he wanted to get professional photos of Samantha's trophy deer. During the photo session, Cole got down on one knee, presented a ring, and proposed to Samantha. She said yes. Samantha commented that she wasn't sure if her friends and family were more surprised by the proposal or the size of the deer. They are planning a wedding for next fall—but not during hunting season.

Negative: On November 22, after more than twenty-six years of marriage, Janet Holden filed for divorce from her husband, Erik McCormack. Holden cited “irreconcilable differences” for her split from the *Will and Grace* actor. The couple first met on the set of a mini-series in 1994 and wed in 1997. They have one 21-year-old son.

For more on these stories, search “Nebraska Marriage Proposal” and “McCormack Divorce.”

Engage

To supplement Engage, ask married couples if they believe a successful marriage requires work. Allow them to share from their experiences what it looks like for a couple to “work” on their marriage. Rephrase the Engage question (Leader Guide, p. 27) for a marriage context: *How does God display Himself as a Master Artisan in marriage relationships?* Share the story of Samantha and Cole, along with the story of Janet and Erik. Note that one couple is just starting on a marriage journey, while the other is ending a marriage after twenty-six years. Discuss reactions to the stories. Ask: *How do these stories relate to the Summary Statement for this lesson: God created man and woman to work together as one in His creation?*

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, write the last summary statement (Leader Guide, p. 36) on the board: *Believers should celebrate a covenant marriage between a man and a woman.* Ask: *What is a covenant marriage?* Review the two marriage stories again. Ask: *What would you say to each couple about what it means to be in a covenant marriage relationship? What are some ways believers can steward their marriage relationships in a way that honors and glorifies God?* Discuss some practical ways that men and women, married or not, can apply the truths of this session in their own lives.