

# 02 A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

**KEY TEXT:** GENESIS 2:7-9,15-25

## CENTRAL truth

Genesis 2 zooms in on the day God created humanity, and reading about this day can help us understand more about God and about ourselves. As we look at this narrative, we learn that the human desires for a home, life-giving purpose, and genuine relationship are God-designed! It suddenly makes sense that when we don't have those things (which happens all the time), we experience pain. As we navigate the difficulties of being a human, it helps us to know **God gave the first humans a home, a purpose, togetherness—and a boundary to protect it all.**

## key question

**In all of Genesis 1–2, Genesis 2:18 is the only time God says something is “not good.” What does this teach us about human relationships?**

God designed us for togetherness! Even if we're introverted and desire lots of time alone, there's still a part of us that needs and desires connection with others. When the man saw the woman, he was overjoyed because he could see they were similar. No other creature on the earth could connect with the man the way he desired. Genuine togetherness was made possible through Eve.

## keep in mind

- It's tempting to use this passage to inappropriately elevate marriage. This first marriage began in perfection, but it didn't stay that way. Marriage was not a saving force for Adam and Eve—only God can save! Protect students against thinking that God views marriage as superior to singleness. In fact, in the New Testament, Paul commended singleness (see 1 Cor. 7) and taught that marriage points to the relationship God will have with His people one day (see Eph. 5:31-32). Marriage doesn't save us—it points us to our true Savior!
- The “naked and unashamed” part may produce some awkwardness in your group, but that weird feeling can actually serve to enhance students' understanding of the text! You could say something like, “See how we even feel weird with just the mention of the word ‘naked’? The shame-free environment of the garden is something that we can barely imagine!”

## application

**How would it change your life if you began to view God's boundaries as life-sucking rather than life-giving?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students can begin to retrain their brains to view God as a God of abundant goodness who offers boundaries as an opportunity for life. As they view him this way, obedience won't seem like a chore.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Leaders can begin to reframe God's boundaries whenever they come up in conversation. They can help students see that God's way isn't about being a “good girl” or a “good boy.” God's way is about life!

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