

Marriage...

Made in Heaven. Lived on Earth.

Message 1 God's Pattern for Marriage

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► Outline

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

God's pattern for marriage includes...

1. **Deliberate** _____.
(Genesis 1:27; 2:18; 5:1-2; Matthew 19:4;
Ephesians 5:32-33)

2. **Departing** _____.
(Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:5a; Ephesians 5:31-32)

3. **Developing** _____.
(Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Matthew 19:5-6;
Ephesians 5:28-32)

Answers: 1. differences 2. parents 3. oneness

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

► Discussion Guide

Whether young or old, married or single, we can all benefit from exposure to God's design for relationships. Use this guide with your spouse, with friends or on your own to develop healthy connections with others and a deeper relationship with Jesus. For additional resources visit brookwoodchurch.org/marriage.

Conversation Starter

Describe a time you fell in love—maybe your first childhood crush or when you first met your spouse. How did you feel? How did your priorities shift?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Read [Song of Songs 1:2](#). Have you ever experienced the emotion displayed in this verse?
2. What are some of the expectations you had (or have, if you're single) about marriage?
3. How have those expectations helped or hurt your understanding of marriage?
4. Read [Genesis 2:18](#). Why did God say *it's not good for the man to be alone*?

Read [Genesis 2:21-25](#); [Matthew 19:4-6](#).

5. What does the Bible mean by *the two are united into one*?
6. What are ways to develop *oneness* in marriage?
7. Why are *leaving home* and *being joined to your spouse* important parts of a solid foundation for marriage?
8. What happens when the husband and/or wife doesn't have a healthy separation from parents?

Read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#).

9. What does it mean to *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ*?
10. How is Jesus' relationship with us an example for Christian marriage?
11. How can you accept and value your spouse even if you don't agree with his/her opinion?
12. What areas in your life right now need to grow and develop so you can have greater intimacy with your spouse and/or healthier, more meaningful friendships?

Soul Training

Pause and thank God for the people in your life. Name them, and pray for them, one-by-one as God brings them to mind. Build this into your life as a regular practice.

Memory Verse

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." [Genesis 2:18 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

- Day 1: [Genesis 1:26-31](#) Day 4: [Ephesians 5:31-33](#)
Day 2: [Genesis 2:18-25](#) Day 5: [Song of Songs 4:9-10](#)
Day 3: [Ephesians 5:21-30](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, September 23, we'll explore *The Purpose of Marriage*. To prepare, read [Romans 6:19-22](#) and come to worship with a heart to learn and grow.