



Study Guide

For Group
Or Personal
Bible Study

Closeness

Week of May 24, 2009

Warm-Up

Who was your first heartthrob? What was life like with, and without that special person?

Opening Prayer

Leader or conversational prayer: Welcome God into your study; praise Him for the fact that though He is holy and awesome, He desires a close, intimate relationship with us.

Study

- Read Genesis 2:4b – 25.
Many scholars agree that verse 4a summarizes the creation account in 1:1-2:3. The creation account we just read is a detailed review of the creation story as it relates to humanity. Why do you think we're given a close look at how people fit into the creation account?
- Read 1:26-29.
What do this passage and 2:7-25 teach us about our original nature? Our character? Our purpose? Our tasks? Our similarity to animals? Our similarity to God?
- Why does God provide Adam with a paradise on earth? Why did God place the tree of knowledge of good and evil into that paradise and tell them not to eat from it? (2:9,17; 3:6)
- What, if anything, is significant about God creating "woman" last:
 - (a) she's the pinnacle of creation
 - (b) she's an afterthought
 - (c) If at first you don't succeed, try try again.

- How do you define "helper"? Does "helper" sound like a lesser person, an equal person or a greater person?
- What does it mean that Adam and Eve were naked and they felt no shame? What does it mean that a husband and wife become one flesh? Are single people incomplete?
- How would you characterize the relationship between Adam and Eve? Between God and humankind? What makes this kind of relationship possible?

Application

- What can you learn from this passage about your relationships with people of the opposite sex? What do you need to do to apply those principles to your life today? How well do you think God understands Adams needs and desires? How well do you think God understands your needs and desires?
- Have you ever felt alone? How did you make it through that time? What do you need to feel more connected to others?
- How are you and your mate a gift to each other: spiritually; emotionally; physically?

Closing Prayer

Conversational prayer: voice your requests to God and others; ask God for conviction and opportunity to seek out and provide close relationships with others.

Resources For Digging Deeper

Becoming Soul Mates – Dr.s Les & Leslie Parrott