

5-DAY BIBLE STUDY

Beloved



TAKE ABOUT
MINUTES **5**

...AND COME GET TO
KNOW THE ONE WHO
CALLS YOU BELOVED

Two Become One

A message of love

In the beginning, people were created in the image of God & ruled with Him in a paradise. God walked and talked with them every day and there was no division between them, only listening, trust, and obedience.

Satan tempted the woman to disobey God, lying to her about God's character, so she would not trust God and His intentions for her. She and her husband did the one thing God told them not to do. They had lived in childlike trust, but now their eyes were opened and they could see they were naked. They were embarrassed and ashamed and they hid from God in deep soul darkness. God found them, killed an animal, and made clothes to cover them.

God had wanted them to trust Him, love Him, & let Him lead them, but they did not trust His goodness nor His leadership.

The people had traded a relationship with God for a lie and they could not turn from sin on their own. They had to leave paradise because of their sin. They began to die, in body and soul. Everyone died from that day on. Everyone sinned from that point on. Except for one man.

The Father sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin, and bring us back to Him, because He loved us.

This one man. Jesus never sinned from day one. His words brought life in body and soul. He forgave sins and invited even murderers to live with Him in paradise! When we accept Jesus as the one true way to God, we can trade our sin for a relationship with Him.

God wanted us to trust Him, love Him, & let Him lead us, but we did not trust His goodness nor His leadership.

The people killed Jesus, and God used His blood to cover our sin. Now, we can come close to Him again, unhidden, unashamed, and free from fear of punishment. We receive the free gift of Jesus' blood to cover us, & die to our old way of distrust & sin and return to childlike trust. We are filled by God's Spirit who empowers us to obey God from a place of trust. He teaches us God's Word of truth & helps us fight temptation.

Tell God you want to walk and talk with Him every day and tell Him you trust Jesus' blood to reconnect us by paying the price for our distrust and disobedience (sin). As we listen to and obey Him, we become formed to His image again, waiting for Him to come back to rule in the paradise of His Kingdom...a new beginning!

THE STORY



The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”...But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said: “This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman, for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 2:18-25

“...at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Mark 10: 7-9

Day 1

Ask

Ask God to fill you fresh with His Spirit and teach you today. Ask God to help you intercede for the couple for whom you are wearing this bracelet.

Engage with the story

Read the story. Here we meet Adam and Eve, and we see that God noticed that being alone was not ideal. He needed a helper suitable for Him. Someone who would fit to his needs, serve him, and offer the help he needed, who would stand with Him, and also against Him, to support and hold him up and remind him to walk in truth of God's purposes and truth.. And the woman would need that too. She would need a support to lean against, to support and call her into truth.

This couple is meant to support and help to one another, and that help will look different in different seasons. The word ezer (helper), is the same word that we would read "Where does my help (ezer) come from? My help (ezer) comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth!" It is a mighty help. A strong help. A rescuing help!

Pray

Thank God for his good idea of marriage
Thank Him for the way man and woman fit together and complement one another,
Ask God to help this couple fit together and help one another:

- By building one another up in the Lord.
- By offering other points of view when needed.
- By standing together against the struggles and big waves of life.
- By noticing and sharing the beauty and joy of life.



Day 2

Ask

Ask God to fill you fresh with His Spirit and teach you today. Ask for openness and humility and vulnerability for this couple.

Engage with the story

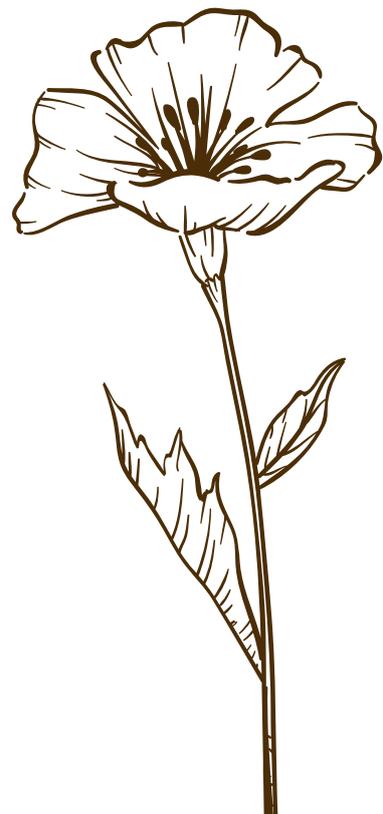
Read the story again. Notice that the man and woman felt no shame. How beautiful is it when a husband and wife are able to live honestly and openly before one another so that they are unashamed? Part of protecting one another is being vulnerable. What are the parts of our hearts that we try to hide or feel tempted to hide? Just like God desires to know us and be made known by us, so is the relationship between husband and wife. God intended for a marriage to be a place of safety and refuge from the rest of the world. God intends for marriage to be a form of rescue.

Eve was taken from the bones that protect the vital organ of the heart. Just like ribs that protect the heart, she stands like a rib to protect her husband from a place of being part of him.

Pray

Thank Him for the gift of Jesus, who makes us righteous and unashamed before God. Pray for this couple to be able to

- Be quick to offer and ask for forgiveness.
- Confess their sin to one another and pray for one another for healing.
- Set good boundaries to protect their relationship.
- Be vulnerable when they are afraid.
- Be honest when they have sinned.
- Enjoy life as a couple who knows one another intimately and completely-- nothing hidden.



Day 3

Ask

Ask God to fill you fresh with His Spirit and teach you today as we focus in on His desire to create unified and soft hearts toward one another and toward Himself.

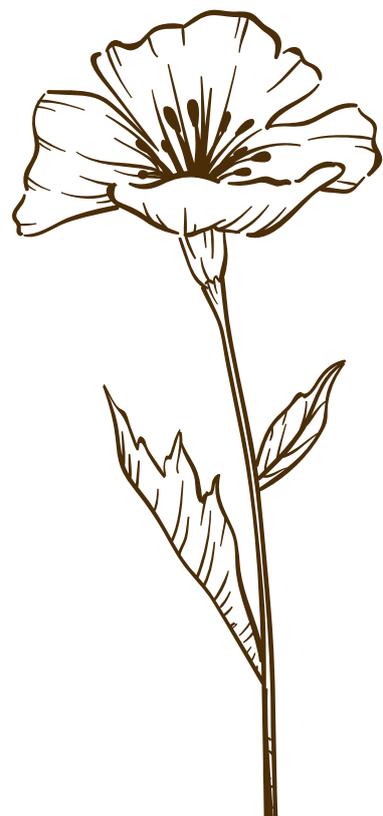
Engage with the story

God's design for marriage is that one man and one woman become one entity, no longer two but one. Jesus said, when a man and woman are married, they are joined together by God, and this is His work. He joins them to cling to one another in every way in every situation. And this is a sacred act. They make a covenant before God and witnesses that is unbreakable. This joining together means that serving one another is a way of serving their own body. It is not burdensome. They are one. While they join together, they also need to find their spiritual rhythms as a family. They need to learn to pray together, follow the Lord's voice together, and talk openly about their faith. As Jesus loves the church, the husband will give himself for his wife and she to him. They will be joined together by their mutual submission, self-sacrifice and service one to the other. These are difficult things to learn, but bring so much joy!

Pray

Thank God for his joining together of these two people in an unbreakable way:

- Ask God to protect the couple from the lies of the enemy who would seek to divide, steal, kill and destroy
- Ask for a complete and joyful joining of the heart and mind and body.
- Ask for a joining in purpose and direction for life to make disciples and be fruitful
- Ask for this couple to enjoy the sometimes difficult process of being joined together!



Day 4

Ask

Ask God to fill you fresh with His Spirit and teach you today. Ask God to help you intercede for the couple for whom you are wearing this bracelet.

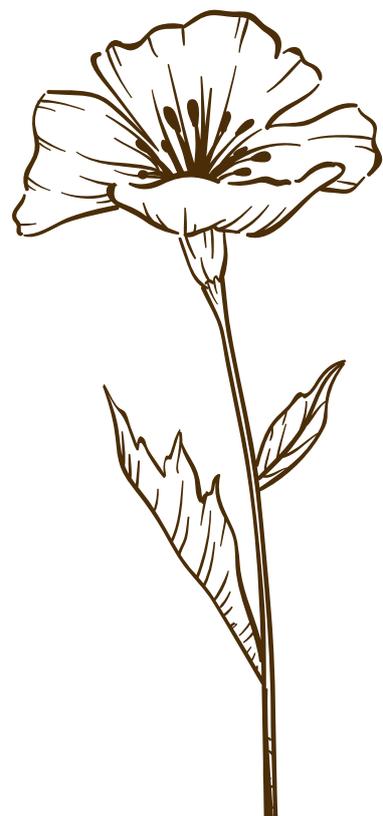
Engage with the story

Marriage is a multiplication of family that requires a leaving of one and a clinging to another. It is difficult to leave one family with the hopes of being able to become a new family as husband and wife, but God designed us to grow our families this way. At the same time, our extended natural families and faith families can support the couple in many ways. They will need brothers and sisters who will help them cling to one another and be faithful, even in really difficult times. This marriage, simply by existing is under attack, because Satan wants to steal and kill every life-giving thing. But we will pray that what God has joined, no one will be able to separate.

Pray

Ask God to help this couple cling together and still have healthy relationships with one another and with extended family:

- That God would provide good, supportive extended family communication filled with love.
- By providing prayer and love for each other's families, that they would be truly considered belonging to one another.
- That no one would try to separate this couple, either out of fear, feelings of loss, manipulation, jealousy, or temptation.
- Let no one covet these two and let this couple not covet other people or relationships.



Day 5

Ask

Ask God to fill you fresh with His Spirit and teach you today. Ask God to help you intercede for the couple for whom you are wearing this bracelet.

Engage with the story

By reading this story, we can understand what God's intent for marriage is. We know that He intended it to bring support, rescue, life and fruitfulness. We know that this couple is meant to be knit together in life-long covenant and for their hearts to stay soft toward one another. Today we pray especially for soft hearts, because that was what Jesus said was lacking in people whose marriages did not last. One or both of their hearts had become hard. But the Holy Spirit keeps us soft toward one another. He is able to give us the patience, faithfulness, hope, goodness, and joy, to be able to withstand anything, because it is God's faithfulness in us. His faithfulness empowers our faithfulness. We determine to keep our hearts soft by His power.

Pray

Ask God to help this couple soft toward one another:

- We ask that they would obey God by forgiving quickly
- We ask that they would walk empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve and love in a way that exemplifies the love Christ and the church have for one another.
- We pray for their softness of speech and actions toward each other, for self-control.
- We pray that their tenderness would set a righteous and joyful example for their children (as God gives them), their family, and friends, for generations to come.

