

Genesis 2:15- Genesis 3:19

¹⁵ The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶ But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— ¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

¹⁸ 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.” ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man^[g] to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

God knew what Adam needed but He had him to see and to name all the animals so he would recognize His own need.

How do you need ___[woman’s name]___?

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs^[d] and closed up the opening. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

God brought her to man. God brought her to you too. Reflect now on the process of how God brought her to you. Talk with her and tell her how you see God’s hand in bringing her to you and then together pray and thank Him for this provision.

²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed. **Notice his excitement. He feels like “Finally, I have her!”**

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken from ‘man.’”

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. **Let’s look at the word naked as a metaphor for the naked truth and feeling vulnerable in that truth. Have you been completely truthful to each other? Take a few minutes to reflect on this. This time needs to have a safe zone. Do we want to have our partner be completely honest with us? Are we strong enough and do we trust God enough that we want that vulnerability with each other? In this safe zone, share anything that needs shared and trust in your love and your God as you are vulnerable in this.**

Check out the second half of verse 25. What shame or guilt do you feel in your relationship or in your life? Confess this to him in vulnerability and then free yourself in forgiveness. God’s forgiveness... His forgiveness... and your own.

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

The world throws a lot of lies at us. Lies about beauty. Lies about materialism- what we need to be happy. Lies about what fulfills us. Lies about our self-worth. What lie from the world do you sometimes believe?

How do you as her Protector best protect her from this lie?

How do you want _____[man’s name]_____ to protect you from this lie?

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man^[a] and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

Together phrase what Adam said in your own words explaining what he was really thinking. Read Job 31:33- Some versions speak of hiding sin in a closet. Even the closet space affects the relationship. Be sure to keep your closet spaces cleaned out of secret sins.

11 “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

12 The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

Notice he blamed God and the woman.

13 Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Notice her blame shift as well. Discuss together the difference of blaming versus taking personal responsibility in mistakes made. Make a commitment to each other to step up in taking personal responsibility in decisions.

¹⁴ Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly,
groveling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,
and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband,
but he will rule over you.^[c]”

How have you seen this woman-desire to control the man in your own life? This desire says- “I don’t trust you, and I don’t trust God.” In what areas do you need to trust ___[insert man’s name]___ better?

How can you communicate that you deserve her trust in this area?

¹⁷ And to the man he said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.

All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
though you will eat of its grains.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
will you have food to eat
until you return to the ground
from which you were made.

For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return.”

In closing read Genesis 5:2. Notice that in making male and female God then blessed them. You are blessed to have each other. Never forget that this relationship is a blessing from the Creator. Take care of it. Be a good steward of the blessing He gave.