

Looking Back

Reflect on what you heard in the sermon on last week's Scripture text.

- What Key truths you learn?
- How will you apply these truths to your life?

Scripture Text

Genesis 2:4-25

Context

Whereas Genesis 1 gives us the big picture of how God made all things out of nothing, including the creation of man on the sixth day, this passage describes and explains the creation of man with greater detail and texture. So from the bird's eye-view of Genesis 1, we zoom in for a closer look at how God formed man, assigned him work in the garden, and graciously provided man with a woman to be his helper.

Observation and Meaning

1. How is man created? Where does God put him? What does this teach us about God?
2. What task does God give to man? What is man prohibited from doing? Why?
3. How and why was woman created? What does the passage teach us concerning marriage?

Big Idea

God graciously gives good gifts to man: life, the garden of Eden, work, and marriage. Man is meant to worship and love God, the Creator and Provider of all things.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

This passage tells us about the goodness of God's provision and intentions for man. Sin is rebellion against God and his purposes. But God graciously gives his Son, Jesus Christ, to save sinful man and to restore God's image in humanity.

Application

1. How can we cultivate a heart of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider?
2. What is our attitude towards work? What would it mean for us to serve God, not ourselves, in our work? How will this change how we work?
3. In which areas of our lives are we tempted to turn away from God and to go our own way? Where do we need to repent and turn back to God?
4. What is our attitude towards marriage? What would it mean for us to pursue God first in our marriages? And if you are unmarried, how can you glorify God in your singleness?
5. For married couples: How do verses 18-25 shape how we relate to our spouse?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.