



Family ... why bother?

OPENING UP

Give an example of when people (and their sin) broke up a community that could have been or started out as a really good thing.

TEXT**The First Family Conflict | Genesis 2:15 - 3:13, 21**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(turn to the ESV Bible to continue reading Genesis 3:1-13, 21)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: We were made for community, but sin separates us

Key Question: How do we experience reconciliation in relationships?

1. Listen to the truth of God's voice. (3:1-6)
2. Set aside false ways of defending yourself. (3:7-13)
3. Receive God's gracious provision. (3:21)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- Genesis 1 is clear that all creation is good, but chapter 2 says that it's not good for the man to be alone. Why do you think it's not good for the man to be alone?
- Eve listened to the voice of the serpent and was deceived into sinning. What are ways in the past that sin has deceived you, or what are truths from God that you have had trouble believing? How has that impacted your relationships?
- Can you relate with Adam and Eve's tendency to shift the blame and point the finger at others? How so?
- God sufficiently covered Adam and Eve's shame by sacrificing an animal to give them clothing. God covered our sin by sacrificing his Son on the cross and giving us His righteousness. What impact does knowing and relying on this gospel—that Jesus' sacrifice for you makes you fully accepted and without shame—have on your relationships? How does it change the way you interact with others?
- How does understanding God's gracious provision for us in Jesus motivate us to be peacemakers in our world?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Identify one relationship in your life in which you have allowed sin to deceive you into being defensive and self-justifying. As a group, discuss practical ways to move toward these people in our lives in a different way—out of the truth of our forgiveness, acceptance, and security in Christ. Select one practical way to make a change in that relationship this week. If this person doesn't know Jesus as their Savior, pray now that this change in your relationship will point them to Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER



Father God, thank you for creating family. We confess that we allow our sin to get in the way of the community that you designed us to have with you and with others. Give us ears to hear the truth you speak to us instead of listening to lies. Give us the humility to resist defending ourselves in relationships, knowing that Jesus perfect life, death, and resurrection justified us before you. And help us, Holy Spirit, to receive the acceptance and covering of Jesus by faith. We want to be men and women that engage the world around us with love and peace because our identity is firmly rooted in being your children, part of your family. Amen.