



In the Garden

OPENING

- What words come to mind when you think of the Garden of Eden?

READ GENESIS 2:1-17

- What did God choose to do on the seventh day? What did he model for us?
- How did God give life to the man? What might that indicate for the kind of relationship He would have with us?
- What stands out to you in the Garden description? What were the names of two of the trees, and what's their significance in the story of God?
- How much freedom did the man have in the Garden? How did God's boundary protect his freedom?

READ GENESIS 2:18-25

- After God created man, what was "not good?" Why do you think God had the man first name the birds and animals?
- How did God make the woman? How did the man respond to her? What do these indicate the kind of relationship they were to have with one another?
- Why could the man and his wife stand naked but feel no shame? Other than physically, how else were they naked?

MAKING IT REAL

- Imagine if you lived in the Garden. What would you have enjoyed the most? Why? (This could be a clue for your part in healing one of the broken places.)

A better translation for "helper" from the Hebrew and its use in context is "ideal partner." Man and woman are equally created in the image of God and have equal value.

- How do God's boundaries protect our freedom?
- What does a relationship look like without shame? Do you think it is possible today? Why? Why not?
- How does Jesus restore relationships from what was lost in the Garden? How has he restored your relationships?

PRAY TOGETHER

Praise and thank God that we are all equally made in God's image and can live without shame through Jesus Christ.

Confess to Him for treating others unequally or with contempt.

Ask Him for His eyes and heart to treat everyone as equals as God does with us.