

## Small Group Curriculum • Genesis 2 • Unalone

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### THE ONLY NOT GOOD IN THE GARDEN • WEEK 3 • Genesis 2:18-25

For the past 3 weeks, we have been spending time in Genesis 2, expanding our understanding of God's design for humanity to be "unalone". While loneliness is more relatable in our lives and in our world today, we are looking to biblical truth and wisdom that help restore us back to the unalone reality that God created us for... a beautiful and intimate connectedness with Him and with one another other.

#### REMINDERS

- Remember to make an invite to our Easter services, April 20 at 9:15 and 11:30!
- Join us for our Good Friday service, 7pm on April 18 at Del Mar. 31, 25.
- Baptisms on April 27. Register at <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/baptisms/>

#### ICEBREAKER

Have you seen the movie Cast Away? The plot revolves around Chuck Noland, a Fedex employee who survives a plane crash, washes ashore on a deserted island, and ends up living there for a few years until he is rescued. He crafts for himself an inanimate friend, Wilson (made with a volleyball and a bloody handprint), to give him a sense of being unalone.

Take a minute to imagine yourself in Chuck's shoes. Would it be of high value or low value to you to have an inanimate friend? Would you bother to create one? Would this be essential to your survival? Share your thoughts with the group.

#### INTRODUCTION

Unalone, as Scripture reveals, is part of God's divine design for humanity. We find evidence of this in Genesis 2:18 where God declares the lone man to be the one "not good" in the midst of the grand goodness of all He created. Then He makes **Ezer** into being, "a **helper** who is just right for him." Take note that ezer is not for mere companionship or co-existence. Otherwise, all the animals with the man would suffice. Rather, God's heart and purpose for ezer is deep and flourishing relationship among people.

#### REFLECTION and DISCUSSION

1. With whom or where do you experience the ezer-ness of man? How would you describe that relationship?
2. How has the world diminished our ezer nature? What barriers keep us from being an ezer to one another?
3. What are the ways in which Jesus lived out being a perfect Ezer on earth? What are the ways that He shows up as a perfect Ezer for you?

#### TRANSITION

# AWAKENING

While it is first made known to us in the creation story, the truth is that God preserves and protects His unalone design for humanity eternally. Simply put, our good Father in heaven created us for deep and flourishing relationship and connection now and forevermore. He reveals His heart through Jesus Christ our Savior, His deposit of the Holy Spirit in us, and the formation of the body of Christ- the Church. The “already but not yet” Kingdom of God holds for us an “already but not yet” perfect togetherness with Him and with one another.

## **DISCUSSION**

READ Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:16-17 and Acts 2:42-47

God invites us to perceive the “new thing” He is doing in our midst. How does our unalone design look different and even more deeply beautiful through the lens of the passages that you read?

What step is God asking you to take to experience more of his community? What does that look like this week?

## **RESPONSE and PRAYER**

It is not the heart of God to negate loneliness, disconnectedness, isolation, and broken relationships. The invitation is for us to bring these realities to light and hold them up against a greater Truth that is at work in our lives.

(For this next part, intentionally invite the Holy Spirit to gently guide your mind and heart.) Take a few minutes to self-reflect on where and how in your life the concept of “alone” shows up. Share with the group if you are willing. Listen with compassion to those who are sharing. These fragments of stories will be the ingredients for prayer.

As you end your time together, let your closing prayer one thanksgiving to God and intercession for one another, stepping boldly and faithfully into our divine unalone design, now and forevermore.

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## VERSUS

Genesis 2:18

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

# AWAKENING

John 14:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be <sup>in</sup> in you.

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.