

Small Group Curriculum • Week 5 • Genesis 2 • UNALONE

UNALONE • Genesis 2

And Moses puts the finishing touches on this section of the creation story, with these words in Genesis 2:25: ***Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*** What does it mean to go back to the garden and experience this level of being fully known, seen, and accepted?

REMINDERS

- Interested in being baptized the Sunday after Easter? Sign up at <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/baptisms/>
- Please consider signing up for a one-time-serve opportunity for Easter Weekend at: <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/one-time-serve/>

Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

ICEBREAKER

- Tell the group one of your most embarrassing moments.

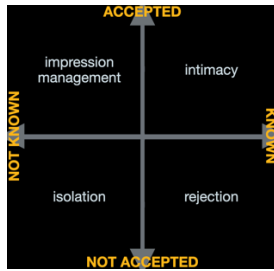
INTRODUCTION

God as Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Man & Woman were all living in complete transparency, intimacy, and oneness with one another. Adam and Eve felt no shame, because they had an unabashed innocence, transparency and confidence in themselves and each other. This was a nakedness on a *relational level* between their creator and with each other. A harmonious environment of safety, dignity, mutual submission, equality, and harmony.

DISCUSSION

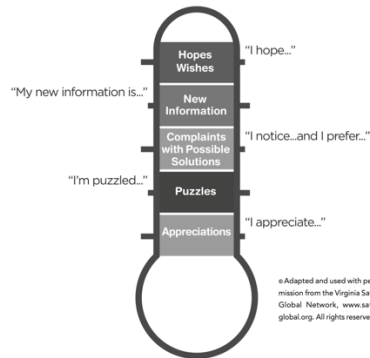
- Read Genesis 2:18-25. What do you notice about the relationship between the man, woman, and their God?
- How does this contrast to what you read in Genesis 3:7-12? How do you see the effects of Genesis 3 in our world today in regard to our self-image, relationship with God and our relationship with others?
- Why is it important for us to transition back to Eden and experience “relational nakedness” where we are known, seen and accepted? When have you experienced this level of vulnerability? How was it achieved?
- As you observe the quadrants of vulnerability, where do you believe we are as a group?

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APPLICATION

Growing in our vulnerability and acceptance of one other better reflects our Creator, the community we are designed for, grows us in new ways, and displays a foretaste of God’s coming kingdom to the world. So, let’s deepen the waters of our vulnerability using the “Community Temperature Reading:”



Either as a group or in pairs, engage in this “brief sharing” exercise, starting with the bottom prompts and working your way to the top:

1. Appreciations: We think them in our heads but often only say them when someone has gone above and beyond the call of duty. (e.g., “I appreciate you waiting for me last night when I was running late.”). I appreciate...
2. Puzzles: We use them when we don’t want to make negative assumptions about people, especially when we don’t have all the information. Puzzles prevent us from jumping to conclusions and negatively interpreting what is going on around us. Puzzles give us an opportunity to slow down and ask questions instead of making judgments. Puzzle is a loving word. (e.g., Instead of being upset and not saying anything at all or angrily saying, “Why didn’t you return my phone call?” you can say, “I’m puzzled as to why you didn’t return my phone call.”). I’m puzzled...
3. Complaints with Possible Solutions: *Keep complaints light in the Community Temperature Reading. All relationships have complaints or things they don’t like. This is normal. Two challenges with complaints: (1) Some of our families grew up with an unwritten rule: If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all. It is very easy to complain and not take any responsibility for a possible solution. The purpose of “Complaints with Possible Solutions” is to help you with small irritations and annoyances that arise each day. (e.g., “I notice you often leave the lights on in our

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apartment when you leave, and I prefer you turn them off.” upon time.”) Use the phrase “I notice . . . and I prefer . . .”

4. New Information: This can take many forms— events, appointments, new decisions, achievements, opportunities, or activities. Relationships can only grow when people know what is happening in each other’s lives, both the trivial as well as the important. (e.g., “Our professor moved the exam so I can go to the movies this week.”). “My new information is...”
5. Hopes and Wishes: Hopes and wishes offer windows into our unique souls, revealing significant parts of who we are. Family life in particular becomes richer as we support and listen to each other’s hopes and dreams. (e.g., “I hope we can get away for vacation this year.”). I hope.... I Wish....
 - What was it like for you to express yourself in these different categories?
 - Which was easiest for you? Which was most difficult for you?
 - What next steps can we take as a group to increase our vulnerability where we are seen, known, accepted?

PRAYER

Take time to pray for any needs that surface from the community temperature reading discussion.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.

PASSAGES:

Genesis 2:18-25

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

¹⁹Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^[a] no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs^[b] and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib^[c] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

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“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:7-12

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”