

## The Good Life

### Introduction

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In our third study we turn our attention to Genesis 2vs4-25. This passage is not a second account of the creation of the universe but a description of the planting of a garden by God, “in the east, in Eden” (Genesis 2vs8) and of the particular relationships that exist for the man and the woman whom God created. The creation of human beings is described sequentially (man in vs 7; woman in vs 22) and in accordance not only with God’s design but to meet a particular need. Man is formed from the ground to meet the need of the ground; woman is formed from man to meet the need of the man. Together, the man and the woman live under the Divine Blessing (described in Genesis 1vs28) and stand in relationship to God, to each other and to the creation over which they are to rule as God’s image bearers. In Genesis 2vs4-25 these relationships are seen in ideal terms and form a striking picture of the good life that God intended human beings to enjoy.

At the end of this study you should be able to answer the following key question from the text

- What should life in God’s good world be like?

Read Genesis 2vs4-25



#### Observe:

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1. The use of the name LORD God
2. God’s role as the planter and sustainer of the garden
3. The formation of the man by God ‘out of the ground’
4. The presence of the tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the garden.
5. The garden as the source of life giving rivers
6. The freedom and limitations which the man enjoyed on the garden
7. The formation of the woman ‘out of the man’
8. The naming of the animals and the woman by man
9. The description of the relationship between the woman and the man in Genesis 2vs24-25.

## **?Think:**

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1. How did man become a living being?
2. What words in the passage best describe life in the garden?
3. What does the naming of the animals signify?
4. Why did the LORD God create the woman out of man?
5. What does the naming of the woman by the man signify?
6. What does the passage teach us about marriage?

## **! Understand / Apply**

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1. What answer can you give for our key question?
2. What role does the Word of the LORD God play within the experience of the 'good life'?