

THIS IS US

MADE ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE

"Relate"

For the week of April 15 - 21, 2018

Main Passages:

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'... ²¹So 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. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:18, 21-22 ESV)

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' ²And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." (Genesis 3:1-6 ESV)

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV)

"When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you?' ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'" (John 13:12-17 ESV)

Main Lessons:

- God will bring together the spouse of His choosing and other purpose-driven teammates.
- Adam listened to Eve rather than God, replacing God as the center of his focus.
- Rather than encourage each other, Adam and Eve enabled each other.
- Disallow misguided relationships from displacing, distracting and wrongly defining "us."
- Choose well who we relate to and how we relate to them.
- We need encouragers and truth tellers, not enablers and manipulators.
- Turn shame and blame into sacrifice and serving.
- When we begin to focus on others, we break an over-obsession with ourselves and better position ourselves for discovery of God's purpose for us.
- People will relate to, connect with, and partner up alongside those who are unselfish, sacrificial and humble.

Reflection:

- Share a time when you allowed someone or something else to replace God as the center of your focus. What did you learn from that experience?
- Share how you are using the lessons from past relationships to cultivate God-given and purpose-driven relationships around you and others.

Application:

- To reverse the sense of shame and blame, what steps are you taking to sacrificially serve others around you?

For Prayer:

- Pray that God's grace and love will heal ones who have suffered broken and painful relationships.
- Pray that group members with God's love continue to stay "up close" to unsaved family and friends.

