

Getting Started

Talk about your experiences with marriage. Have you been married? Are you still? What are the joys and challenges? Divorced? Can you share what happened? Widowed? What losses were the hardest? Are you single? By choice or by circumstance? What holds you back from marrying?

Into the Bible

Genesis 2:18 describes the woman as *a helper suitable for the man*. Does *helper* have a good connotation or bad for you?

In the Bible, the Lord God is usually the one who *helps*. According to 1 Samuel 7:7-12, Psalm 18:29, and Psalm 33:20, what kind of help are we talking about?

What does 1 Chronicles 12:21-22 tell you about the kind of human help rendered?

Why do you think this particular word was chosen to describe the woman?

In what ways do other humans provide this kind of help for us?

Why were none of the animals *suitable* for the man (Genesis 2:18-20)?

Read Genesis 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 6:16. At the very least, what does one-flesh mean?

Having listened to Pastor Stowe’s sermon, what other areas of life are husband and wife united in?

What does 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 tell you about the unity of Christian friends?

In what ways are all manner of friends bound together, maybe not as one-flesh, but in significant and lasting ways?

According to Jesus (Mark 10:2-5), why is divorce allowed? What do you think ‘hardness of heart’ means here? Would you agree with Pastor’s statement that sometimes divorce is a *tragic necessity*? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper

How do well-functioning relationships of all sorts—marriage, families, friendships—contribute to thriving human lives? Do you have enough of those relationships? What keeps you from having them?