

SEPTEMBER 2026 PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer Service for Chapter 1 of “History of Salvation: History of a People, of a Family” Study Topic

The Chapter focuses on Genesis 2:18-24

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SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT:

(Genesis 2:18-24) God’s declaration that it is not good for man to be alone.

- The creation of woman as a fitting partner.
- The equality and shared humanity of man and woman: “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”
- The origin of marriage: a man leaves his parents, cleaves to his wife, and the two become “one flesh.”

Complementary Scripture passages to Genesis 2:18-24

To complement **Genesis 2:18–24**, the following passages illuminate its main themes:

Passages on creation and human dignity

- **Genesis 1:26–28** — Man and woman are created in God’s image and blessed with the vocation to fruitfulness. This complements Genesis 2 by presenting their equal dignity and shared mission.
- **Genesis 5:1–2** — God creates humanity “male and female” in his likeness and blesses them.
- **Psalms 8** — Humanity’s dignity and responsibility within creation.
- **Psalms 128:1–4** — Marriage, family life, and fruitfulness as blessings from God.

Passages on marriage as a covenant

- **Matthew 19:3–9** — Jesus explicitly returns to Genesis “in the beginning” and teaches that husband and wife become one flesh; therefore, marriage is not to be separated by human will.
- **Mark 10:2–12** — A parallel account emphasizing the permanence and fidelity of marriage.
- **Ephesians 5:21–33** — Marriage is interpreted in relation to Christ’s loving and sacrificial union with the Church; Ephesians 5:31–32 directly cites Genesis 2:24.
- **Malachi 2:13–16** — Marriage is described as a covenant requiring faithfulness.
- **Tobit 8:4–8** — Tobias and Sarah pray that their marriage may be founded on God’s purpose rather than selfish desire.

Passages on mutual self-gift and communion

- **1 Corinthians 7:3–5** — Husband and wife are called to mutual responsibility and reciprocal self-giving.
- **1 Peter 3:1–7** — Spouses are urged to live with understanding, honor, and mutual consideration. The Pontifical Biblical Commission identifies this passage as relevant to the couple’s continuing responsibility toward one another.

- **Philippians 2:1–4** — The Christian pattern of humility and concern for the good of the other.
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9–12** — “Two are better than one”: companionship, support, and shared strength.

Passages on love, fidelity, and fruitfulness

- **Hosea 2:16–22** — God’s covenant with Israel is portrayed through the imagery of faithful spousal love.
- **Isaiah 54:5–8** — God presents himself as Israel’s husband and promises steadfast mercy.
- **John 2:1–12** — Jesus’ presence at Cana reveals marriage’s capacity to signify God’s covenant love.
- **John 15:9–13** — The spouses’ self-giving love can be nourished by Christ’s command to remain in his love and lay down one’s life for others.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4–8** — A practical description of patient, generous, and enduring love.

Passages on the wound of sin and redemption

- **Genesis 3:1–24** — The harmony of Genesis 2 is wounded by sin, affecting trust, desire, and relationships. Yet sin does not abolish God’s original plan.
- **Romans 5:12–21** — Christ restores what was damaged through Adam’s sin.
- **Ephesians 2:13–22** — Christ reconciles humanity and creates communion where division once prevailed.
- **Revelation 19:6–9** — The imagery of the wedding feast points to the final union of Christ and his redeemed people.

Most direct complementary sequence: Genesis 1:26–28; Tobit 8:4–8; Matthew 19:3–9; John 2:1–12; Ephesians 5:21–33; and Revelation 19:6–9. Together they present human dignity, marriage’s covenantal permanence, mutual self-gift, Christ’s sanctification of marriage, and its ultimate fulfillment in God’s kingdom.

Complementary Psalms to Genesis 2:18-24

These psalms complement **Genesis 2:18–24** by reflecting companionship, marital love, human dignity, unity, and family blessing.

Most direct choices

- **Psalms 128** — The clearest complement: it presents marriage, children, the household, and the family table as blessings received by those who fear the Lord.
- **Psalms 45** — A nuptial psalm celebrating the bridegroom, bride, beauty, joy, and the beginning of a new household.
- **Psalms 133** — Complements “the two shall become one flesh” through its praise of unity: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

Psalms on human dignity and vocation

- **Psalms 8** — Humanity is crowned with glory and honor and entrusted with responsibility for creation, complementing Genesis’s account of the human person made for relationship and stewardship.

- **Psalm 139:13–18** — Celebrates the intimate way God creates and knows each human person.
- **Psalm 100:3–5** — Reminds the family that its life belongs to the Lord, who made and sustains it.

Psalms on trust and covenant faithfulness

- **Psalm 37:3–7** — Encourages spouses and families to trust in the Lord, do good, and patiently await his work.
- **Psalm 85:8–13** — Describes the meeting of steadfast love and faithfulness, imagery appropriate to covenantal marriage.
- **Psalm 103:8–18** — Praises God’s merciful and enduring covenant love.

Psalms on family life and protection

- **Psalm 127** — Presents children as a heritage from the Lord and the home as dependent on God’s blessing.
- **Psalm 144:12–15** — Prays for flourishing children, secure homes, abundant harvests, and the happiness of a people whose God is the Lord.
- **Psalm 146:5–9** — Proclaims God’s care for the vulnerable, reminding families that their communion must include justice and compassion.

Best combination for prayer or reflection

Psalm 8 — human dignity

Psalm 128 — marriage and family blessing

Psalm 133 — unity and communion

Psalm 45 — nuptial love and covenant joy

Together, these psalms illuminate **Genesis 2:18–24** as a revelation of the human person created for communion and of marriage as a blessed, faithful, and fruitful union.

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 2:18-24

"The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body."

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

LITURGICAL PRAYER:

Psalm 128:1-6

Response: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and who walk in his ways.

*What your hands provide you will enjoy;
you will be blessed and prosper:
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your home,
Your children like young olive plants around your table.
Just so will the man be blessed who fears the LORD.*

Response: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and who walk in his ways.

*May the LORD bless you from Zion;
may you see Jerusalem's prosperity all the days of your life,
and live to see your children's children.
Peace upon Israel!*

Response: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and who walk in his ways.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

ALL:

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, You created man and woman for communion, declaring that it is not good for the human person to be alone. You brought husband and wife together so that they might become "one flesh" in love, fidelity, and mutual self-gift.

Bless every married couple. Help them to recognize one another as beloved gifts from your hand—equal in dignity, united in vocation, and called to support one another with tenderness and respect.

When they experience loneliness, draw them closer. When they are wounded, grant them healing. When they disagree, give them patience and humility. When they are tempted to withdraw, renew their commitment to communion. When they rejoice, teach them gratitude.

May their love be faithful and generous, patient and forgiving. Protect their marriage from selfishness, resentment, infidelity, and every force that threatens their unity. Give them the

grace to speak truth with charity, to listen with understanding, and to seek reconciliation without delay.

Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen spouses by the grace of their sacrament. Teach them to love one another as you love the Church: with perseverance, sacrifice, mercy, and complete self-giving. Make their home a domestic church, a place of prayer, peace, hospitality, and service.

Bless their children and all entrusted to their care. May their family life bear witness to the goodness of creation and the faithful love of God. In moments of difficulty, remind them that your original plan for husband and wife remains good and that your grace can heal what sin has wounded.

Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for married couples. Mary, faithful Mother, pray for them. Saint Joseph, guardian of families, pray for them.

May every husband and wife remain united in heart, steadfast in love, and faithful to the covenant they have made before God.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEEP POOLING:

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.