

NOVEMBER 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer Service for Chapter 3 of “Love is Much More Than Love” Study Topic

The Chapter focuses on Genesis 2:18-23

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TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

(Genesis 2:18-23) God saw that the first man was alone and declared, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him.” He then brought all the animals before the man so he could name them, but none proved to be a true companion. Therefore, the LORD caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and fashioned a woman, bringing her to him. When the man beheld her, he exclaimed, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Thus, the passage explains the divine origin of woman as the man’s appropriate partner and the beginning of human companionship.

To complement **Genesis 2:18-23**, here are some related passages from the Bible:

- **Genesis 1:27-28** – God creates humanity “**male and female**” in His own image and gives them the vocation to “**be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over the earth.**” This establishes the complementary nature of the sexes right from the first act of creation, preparing the ground for the “**helper suitable**” spoken of in **Genesis 2.1**
- **Ephesians 5:21-33** – **St. Paul** describes the marital relationship as a profound mystery of Christ and the Church: wives are called to submit “**out of reverence for Christ,**” while husbands are urged to love their wives “**as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her.**” The passage portrays the mutual self-gift that the “**woman taken out of man**” is meant to embody.
- **1 Peter 3:1-7** – Peter exhorts wives to win over their husbands by “**pure and reverent conduct,**” and husbands to honor their wives as “**the weaker vessel**” and as co-heirs of the gracious gift of life. This reinforces the complementary partnership inaugurated in **Genesis 2.3**
- **1 Corinthians 11:8-9** – Paul affirms the created order: “Man was not made from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man.” The passage echoes the Genesis narrative that woman is “**bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.**”

These passages, taken together, present a consistent biblical and magisterial picture: the creation of woman as a “helper suitable” is not an isolated event but the beginning of the complementary, self-giving relationship that the whole of Scripture presents as the ideal model for marriage and human communion.

Genesis 2:18-23

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."

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:

Several Psalms complement **Genesis 2:18-23**:

- **Psalm 45 (the nuptial hymn)** This psalm celebrates a royal wedding, describing the king's beauty, righteousness, and the bride's honor. It portrays marriage as a divine, ordered union that reflects the "helper suitable" created for man (Gen 2:18-23).
- **Psalm 139 (the intimate knowledge of God)** The psalmist proclaims that God "knit me together in my mother's womb" and knows us "bone of my bones." The language of being "fearfully and wonderfully made" resonates with the Genesis picture of the woman being taken from the man's rib and becoming "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."
- **Psalm 145 (God's universal goodness)** By praising God as "good to all" and "the Lord is gracious and merciful... over all that he has made," this psalm underscores the goodness of creation itself, of which the creation of woman is a prime example of God's loving design.
- **Psalm 121 (God as the ever-present helper)** The psalmist declares that "my help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" and that the Lord "will not slumber." This mirrors the Genesis promise that the woman is a "helper suitable" for the man—a continual divine assistance in human life.
- **Psalm 23 (the Good Shepherd's care)** Though primarily a shepherd image, the psalm's assurance that the Lord "leads me beside still waters" and "restores my soul" reflects the relational intimacy and protective partnership that the first man experiences with his newly created companion.

These Psalms together highlight the biblical vision of marriage and human companionship: a divinely instituted partnership (Ps 45), the profound intimacy of the persons involved (Ps 139), the goodness of God's creation (Ps 145), the ever-present help God provides (Ps 121), and the caring, guiding love that mirrors the relational bond inaugurated in Genesis.

Psalm 145:1-13

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you; I will praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and worthy of much praise, whose grandeur is beyond understanding.

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

One generation praises your deeds to the next and proclaims your mighty works.

They speak of the splendor of your majestic glory, tell of your wonderful deeds.

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

*They speak of the power of your awesome acts and recount your great deeds.
They celebrate your abounding goodness and joyfully sing of your justice.*

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

*The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.
The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works.*

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

*All your works give you thanks, LORD and your faithful bless you.
They speak of the glory of your reign and tell of your mighty works,
Making known to the sons of men your mighty acts, the majestic glory of your rule.*

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

*Your reign is a reign for all ages, your dominion for all generations.
The LORD is trustworthy in all his words, and loving in all his works.*

Response: I will extol you, my God and king; I will bless your name forever and ever.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

+Prayer for Married Couples inspired by Genesis 2:18-23 “From One to Two”

ALL:

Lord God,

You saw that the first man was alone and declared, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him”. In that holy moment, you fashioned woman from the rib of Adam, a true companion, “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”. Grant, O Father, that every husband and wife may experience that same divine intimacy:

May the husband love his wife as Christ loves the Church, laying down his life in self-sacrificial service.

May the wife be a helpful partner, sharing in the joys and burdens of life, never a mere accessory but a true companion.

Teach them to listen with open hearts, to give of themselves freely, and to grow together in humility and charity, so that their union becomes a living sign of Your love to the world.

Bless their families, that children may see in their parents the beauty of partnership and the holiness of love. May the grace that sprang from the first union—rooted in mutual respect, self-gift, and shared purpose—fill every day of their lives.

We ask this 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.