

Week 2: Recovering the Original Plan

Let's go back to the beginning. If the wedding feast of Cana took you back to the time of your own wedding, this week's Scripture will take you even further back: to God's plan for man and woman "from the beginning." This week we are going to think about God's plan for your marriage. Keeping your commitments this week should help you be open to more grace in your marriage and make you more aware of God's action in your life. By the way, if you haven't received your weekly video from us, make sure you are signed up at Cana90.org.

Messy Family Podcast Resource for the Week:

MP105: Deepening Unity in Marriage

MP029: Scripture and the Family

Monday

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

*God created mankind in His image; in the image of God He created him:
male and female He created them*

GENESIS 1:27

According to popular culture, men are from Mars and women are from Venus. But according to Sacred Scripture, God created **both** men and women **in the Divine Image**. That means that both men and women reflect the image of God. After creating each part of His world, God said about it, "It is good." Yet only after the creation of man and woman did He say, "It is VERY good."

As you reflect on your marriage and family today, take some time to practice gratitude by printing out [this list](#).) Make a list of where your marriage and family are very good. Share your list with your spouse.

Tuesday

THE CROWN OF CREATION

So the LORD God cast a deep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

genesis 2:21

The Complete Commentary of Matthew Henry on the Bible, [found online](#), has this beautiful reflection on Genesis 2:21, compiled from other sources, including Jewish and [Catholic theologians](#). ([Printable here](#))

*The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam;
not made out of his head to rule over him,
nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him,
but out of his side to be equal with him,
under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved by him.”*

Take some time today to reflect upon this passage and commentary. How has this reality affected your marriage? Do you see your spouse as your helpmate? How have you appreciated the different roles you play within your family. Ask Jesus and Mary to reveal to you how you can more effectively live out your appreciation for your spouse.

Wednesday

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE 'HE SAID, SHE SAID...'

*"Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?"
The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me, she gave me the fruit
from the tree, so I ate it." The LORD God then asked the woman, "What is
this you have done?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me, so I ate it."*

GENESIS 3: 11B-13

Man and woman, more directly, you and your spouse were created to work together, in tandem, as a team. But Original Sin has made that about as difficult as possible. Thanks to the sins of our fathers and mothers, we have been handed down concupiscence, fallen human nature. To think that your own concupiscence only affects you is naive. In marriage we become one, and we ought to start looking at our own difficulties through that lens: just as Adam and Eve shared jointly the effects of Original Sin, so our own fallen human nature affects our unity with our spouse.

Take some time today to ask yourself some hard questions:

- How or where in our marriage do we need to be more unified?
- How do I blame my spouse or children for things instead of standing up and helping them or protecting them?
- Where do I need to own my fault in a difficulty in our marriage/family?

Thursday

MEMENTO MORI

*By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread,
until you return to the ground from which you were taken; for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

GENESIS 3:19

Echoing what you may have heard if you received ashes on Ash Wednesday, take some time today and remember your death. As they say in Latin, *Memento Mori*. Ask yourself these three key questions:

- What things are stressing you out that wouldn't really matter if you were to die today?
- If you died today, would your spouse and children remember you as you would want them to remember you?
- If not, where do you need God's help to change?

Friday

GRATITUDE REVISITED

*The LORD made for the man and his wife garments of skin,
with which He clothed them.*

GENESIS 3:21

Even after Adam and Eve were disobedient and hid from God, abdicated their personal responsibility and really acted quite wretchedly, God still found them where they were at, supplied their needs and set them up for success as a couple and eventually a family.

We started with a [gratitude reflection](#) this week. Let's also end there.

- What are the ways that God has continued to supply your family with grace upon grace even amidst your faults and failings?
- Where is God loving you?
- How can you make gratitude a regular part of your life, especially in your relationship with God?

After these reflections this week, consider your commitments that you have made. How are you doing? Do you think you should change any of them or add to them?

Weekend: Grow Your Family Culture!

DISCUSSION

- What are the things you are most grateful for in our family?
- List three events ahead of you that get you excited - even if they are years away. What is your favorite thing to do with your family? If we could travel anywhere together, where would it be?
- What is your favorite part of creation? Why?

→ How do you tell people that you're grateful? How do you tell God?

HANDS ON

- ★ [Take a 360 tour of Sistine Chapel at the Vatican website](#) and find the famous Creation story images hidden there. Hint: look up!
- ★ Gather all of the stuffed & toy animals in your house and set up a little Creation story scene. Let your kids name the animals.
- ★ Read Chapter 8 and 9 of *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S.Lewis and compare it with Genesis Chapter 1. Talk about the parallels. What's similar? What's different? How does Lewis' story make you think about the Biblical creation in a new way?
- ★ And of course....COLORING PAGES! These are from [ChristianSchoolPrintables.com](#).