

Narrow Path: The Discipline of Doing Hard Things – Week Two
Choosing to Build a Strong Marriage
The Creation of the Woman – Genesis 2:18-22

Main Idea: The single most important decision you can make regarding your personal happiness has to do with how you choose to relate to your spouse. Genesis 2:18-25 describes what God does to produce lasting joy in marriage.

1. ***BIG PICTURE – Marriage must consistently be a God-centered relationship. Genesis 2:18***
 - A. God designed each marriage to be a mini-representation of him. 2:18a
 - B. Marriage is based on the serving nature of God. 2:18b
 - C. Back to the big picture: Marriage is not an institution that has evolved but an institution given by God to reflect his character to the world.
→ Therefore, _____
2. ***FOCUS ON ADAM – Husbands must learn a counter-intuitive form of leadership. Genesis 2:19-21a***
 - A. God prepares Adam to lead by asking him to name the animals. 2:19-20a
 - B. The role of vocabulary is crucial in any kind of leadership.
 - C. The effects of servant leadership are powerful in creating the appropriate culture in the family.
 - D. Adam is forced to trust in God's sovereignty.
3. ***FOCUS ON EVE – Wives must learn the discipline of protective support. Genesis 2:21-22***
 - A. The symbolism of coming from Adam's side indicates her power as a wife. 2:21
 - B. Eve was "fashioned" not "formed." See 2:7 and 2:22a.
 - C. God brings her to Adam, and like Adam, she had to rest in God's sovereignty. 2:22b
4. ***FOCUS ON COMMITMENT – Mutual commitment is designed to create safety. Genesis 2:24-25***
 - A. Adam did what he was trained to do. 2:23
 - B. Moses describes the long-term commitment aspect of marriage. 2:24
 - C. Commitment means working hard at creating safety. 2:25