

UNIT ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

LESSON ONE: DESIGNED BY GOD

1. I am happy that you want to study God's plan and purpose for marriage. God always blesses those who follow his will. We must begin our study by understanding "**What is marriage?**" In this unit you will study the basic facts about marriage. These basic facts were designed into marriage from the very beginning.

When God created the earth, he started with the basic elements of water and dry land (Genesis 1:9). Then he created living things. He started with the most simple forms of life and proceeded toward the more complicated forms of life. The last thing he created was human beings.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man [mankind or human beings] in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock [animals], over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Human beings were special to God because he created them in His _____ and they were to _____ over all his creation.

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2. God created human beings in his own image and he gave them rule or authority over his creation. Human beings are special to God.

Genesis 1:29

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

God created all the plants and fruit trees to be food for _____.

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3. It is a wonderful fact that God created plants and fruit trees to be food for human beings. In fact, God created all the earth just for human beings.

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue [control] it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God gave human beings _____ over all the earth.

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4. God gave human beings rule or authority over all the earth. The earth is God's special creation for a blessing to human beings. God created human beings in his own spiritual image so they could be like him and be able to rule over the earth.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man [mankind or human beings] in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

In addition to being created in the image of God, He also created us to be _____ and _____.

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5. God is the one who created us to be male and female. We know that God is not male and female. God is a spirit. He is not a human being (John 4:24). We are created in the spiritual image of God and at the same time we are created with a physical body. We have two natures, **physical** and **spiritual**. We can enjoy the physical blessings of the earth because of our physical nature. We can enjoy fellowship with God because of our spiritual nature.

Genesis 1:31
God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

How did God feel about the way he had created human beings? _____

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6. God saw that everything he had made was good. Human beings were his special creation because they were both physical and spiritual beings. The fact that they were spiritual beings made it possible for them to better enjoy their physical nature. In Genesis chapter two we have an explanation of why God made us to be male and female. Genesis chapter two is an explanation of Genesis 1:27.

Genesis 2:18
*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper **suitable** for him."*

The first male, Adam, needed a helper who would be _____ for him.

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7. Adam, the first man, needed a helper that would be suitable for his spiritual and physical nature. He needed someone who could share his feelings and desires. He needed someone who was like him but different.

Genesis 2:20-22
But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

God created a women to be the _____ _____ for Adam.

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8. Eve, a woman, was the suitable helper that God created for Adam. She was his assistant (helper) as he ruled the earth. She was his companion so that he would not be lonely.

Genesis 2:23
The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

When Adam saw the woman, he knew that she had the same _____ and _____ that he had.

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9. Eve, the first woman, had the same bones and flesh that Adam had. She was a human being just like him but different. She had both a physical and a spiritual nature just like Adam. She was the perfect companion for Adam.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man [mankind or human beings] in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Both Adam and Eve were human beings created in the spiritual image of God. However, they were different because Adam was _____ and Eve was _____.

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10. Although Adam and Eve were both human beings created in the image of God, they were different. Adam was male and Eve was female. God created human beings to be this way for a special reason. They were to enjoy a wonderful companionship that involved both their physical and their spiritual natures. Only human beings can have this wonderful companionship.

Genesis 2:24

So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife. And the two people will become one body. [NCV]

The physical and spiritual nature of a man and a woman make it possible for them to become _____.

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11. A man and a woman can become one body because they are both physical and spiritual. This special form of companionship is a wonderful blessing that God gave to human beings. In another lesson of this unit you will learn more about the meaning of "**one body**." You can be sure that God was blessing us when he made us to be male and female.

God made us to be male and female so we could have a special and wonderful kind of _____.

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12. God made us to be male and female so we could have a special and wonderful kind of blessing or companionship. This special companionship is called **marriage**. In another lesson of this unit you will learn why this relationship between a male and a female is not always a blessing. Just remember that God was sincere and serious when he made us to be male and female.

The wonderful companionship that God designed for a man and a woman is called _____.

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13. Marriage is the wonderful companionship that God designed for a man and a woman.

A man and a woman can have a wonderful marriage companionship together because God gave them both a _____ nature and a _____ nature.

=====

14. The physical and spiritual nature of a man and a woman make it possible for them to have a wonderful companionship. God designed this companionship to be a blessing to them.

When a man and a woman have a wonderful physical and spiritual companionship together, we call it _____.

continued on next page

Why did God design us to be male and female? _____

UNIT ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

LESSON TWO: LEAVE AND BE UNITED

1. In the first lesson you learned that God has a special purpose in creating us male and female. That special purpose is a wonderful companionship called marriage. The marriage companionship is the most wonderful companionship that exists among human beings. God described the basic characteristics of that companionship when he created Adam and Eve.

Genesis 2:24

So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife. And the two people will become one body. [NCV]

God designed Adam and Eve to enjoy a wonderful companionship called _____
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2. Marriage is the wonderful companionship that God designed for Adam and Eve and for all of mankind. It is the most wonderful companionship that exists among human beings. God described the three basic characteristics of marriage in Genesis 2:24. **Read again Genesis 2:24 in the frame above.**

God said that a man will _____ his father and mother and _____ with his wife and that the two people will _____
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3. God said that the three basic characteristics of marriage are **LEAVE, BE UNITED,** and **BECOME ONE BODY.** In this lesson you are going to think about the first two characteristics.

List the first two characteristics of marriage described by God in Genesis 2:24.

- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
- =====

4. The first two characteristics of marriage described by God in Genesis 2:24 are **leave** and **be united**.

Genesis 2:24

So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife. And the two people will become one body. [NCV]

God said that before a man can enjoy his marriage companionship he must leave his _____
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5. Before a man can enjoy marriage companionship he must leave his father and mother. This is not easy to do. Our father and mother love us. We also love our father and mother. They have blessed us in many ways. We have a very special relationship with them. However, this relationship must change.

Before a man can enjoy the special companionship of marriage he must _____ his father and mother.

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6. Before a man can enjoy the companionship of marriage he must leave his parents. Our parents train us and provide for our needs until we become mature. When a man becomes mature, he is ready to provide for himself. A mature man is ready to make his own decisions in life. He is ready to leave his father and mother and live his own life.

A man is ready to leave his father and mother and live his own life when he becomes _____.

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7. A man is mature when he is ready to leave his father and mother and live his own life. At that time he is also ready to enjoy the companionship of marriage.

When a man becomes mature he is ready to be united with _____.

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8. A man is ready to be united with his wife when he becomes mature. The word **united** is translated as **cleave** in many English translations of the Bible. Both English words, united and cleave, help to describe the new relationship between a man and his wife. United means to be joined together in such a way that they act as one. Cleave means to hold on to something. It has the idea of two things glued together. Both of these English words together describe the meaning of the original Hebrew word in Genesis 2:24. The man and the woman must be glued together in such a way that they act as one.

What is the meaning of the Hebrew word in Genesis 2:24 that is translated as **united** or **cleave** in English translations?

=====

9. In the original Hebrew, God said a man should be joined or glued to his wife in such a way that they act as one. We will discuss this new relationship in the next lesson about **One Body**. However, it is clear from this scripture that man forms a new and very close relationship with his wife that is very different from the relationship he had with his parents.

When a man become mature he leaves the old relationship with _____ and unites with _____ to form a new relationship.

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10. Marriage takes place when a man leaves the relationship he had with his parents and forms a new relationship with his wife. This new relationship has new characteristics that are much different than the relationship he had with his parents.

Before a man can enjoy marriage he must leave the relationship he has with _____.

=====

11. One characteristic of marriage is that a man must leave the relationship he has with his father and mother or parents. This is also true for the woman although it is not mentioned directly in Genesis 2:24. You will see that this is necessary as we go deeper into the subject of marriage in later lessons.

In order to enjoy the new relationship the man must _____ his parents and _____
_____ with his wife.

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12. The man must leave his parents and cleave to or be united with his wife. A man will not fully enjoy the marriage companionship unless he fully leaves the relationship he has with his parents and he fully unites with or cleaves to his wife.

In what passage of scripture do we find the three basic characteristics of marriage?

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13. God gave us the three basic characteristics of marriage in Genesis 2:24.

Describe the first two characteristics of marriage.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

UNIT ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

LESSON THREE: ONE BODY

1. God designed marriage to be a wonderful companionship between a man and a woman. This companionship starts when a man leaves the relationship he has with his father and mother and establishes a new relationship between himself and his wife.

Genesis 2:24

So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife. And the two people will become one body. [NCV]

When a man unites himself with his wife they become _____ .

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2. **One body** describes the new relationship that a man has with his wife. Some translations say "**one flesh**." However, the words "one flesh" do not properly describe the relationship. They do not fully explain the original Hebrew in Genesis 2:24. The husband and wife become one in more ways than just the flesh. Remember, God gave us two natures.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man [mankind or human beings] in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God created us with both a _____ nature and a _____ nature.

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3. We have both a physical and a spiritual nature. When a man and a woman become one body in marriage they unite both their physical and their spiritual natures. This is what makes the marriage a

wonderful companionship. Without the spiritual nature, the relationship is no different than that of animals.

In marriage a man and a woman become one both _____ and _____.

4. There is sweet companionship when a man and a woman become one physically and spiritually. We know what it means to become one physically. We see it all the time among the animals. But what does it mean to become one spiritually? Perhaps these scriptures about spiritual love can help.

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Philippians 2:2

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

- a. Spiritual love comes from the _____.
- b. If there is spiritual love, you will be like-_____, being one in _____ and _____.

5. Spiritual love comes from the heart. Spiritual love brings a unity of **mind, spirit and purpose**. We will study about spiritual love in unit four. Animals cannot express this kind of love.

Marriage is different than the sexual relationship between animals because a man and a woman can be united _____.

6. A man and a woman can be united spiritually but animals cannot. Marriage takes place when a man and a woman are united both physically and spiritually. A man and a woman must agree on many things if they are going to be united spiritually.

From the list below mark the **one** that is the most important for a man and a woman to agree upon if they are going to be united spiritually.

- _____ a) What color to paint the bedroom.
- _____ b) How to discipline children.
- _____ c) Goal or purpose in life.
- _____ d) How their neighbor should solve his problems.

7. The most important thing for a man and a woman to agree upon is their goal or purposes in life. They cannot be united if they are not working for the same goal or purpose. The word **united** means to agree with each other so that you can act as one. It is only when you are in agreement that you can enjoy the spiritual unity of love, joy and peace. Let's think again about the three basic characteristics of marriage.

The three basic characteristics of marriage are that :

- 1. A man will _____.
- 2. Then he will _____.
- 3. And the two will _____.

8. God designed marriage so that a man will leave his father and mother and be united with (or cleave to) his wife and the two will become one body. When a man leaves the relationship he has with his parents and forms a new relationship with his wife, he enters a totally different kind of relationship.

Write the letter **P** in front of the statements that describe the relationship between a child and his parents and write the letter **M** in front of the statements that describe the marriage relationship.

- _____ a) Your food and clothing are provided for you.
- _____ b) You provide your own food and clothing.
- _____ c) You decide together what you will do.
- _____ d) You are told what to do.
- _____ e) You become one body.
- _____ f) You are just a child.
- _____ g) You have your own children.

9. There are many differences between the relationship a man has with his parents and the relationship he can have with his wife. A man and his wife can become one body, but this is not possible between a man and his parents. As a child he is under the authority of his parents and he depends on them for food and clothing. He is not free to live his own life as he wishes. However, in God's plan for marriage a man and his wife decide together where they will live, how they will live and what is most important in their life. Together they bring forth children. They share many things that are not possible for a man and his parents to share.

Mark the relationship that God has designed to be the **most** wonderful among human beings.

- _____ a) A child's relationship with his parents.
- _____ b) The marriage relationship between a man and a woman.
- _____ c) The relationship between two men or two women.

10. The most wonderful relationship in all of God's creation is the marriage relationship between a man and a woman. They share many things both physically and spiritually. Together they can have a beautiful companionship. Together they set goals, set up a home, bring forth children and eventually reach their goals. This wonderful companionship brings love, joy and peace into the life of the man and the woman.

Amos 3:3

Two people will not walk together unless they have agreed to do this. [NCV]

In order for a man and a woman to become one body in marriage they must _____.

11. A man and a woman become one body in marriage when they agree with each other. They walk together through life as one body. They enjoy a wonderful companionship that cannot be found in any other relationship among human beings.

In order for a man and a woman to enjoy the wonderful companionship of marriage they must be _____ both physically and spiritually.

12. A man and a woman must be in agreement or united both physically and spiritually to enjoy the wonderful companionship of marriage. This is the reason a man must leave the relationship he has with his parents. If his parents still have authority over him it will interfere with the unity he has with his wife.

The same thing is true for the woman. She must also leave the authority of her parents and be united with her husband. In fact, the three basic characteristics for marriage in Genesis 2:24 apply to both the man and the woman.

There is beautiful companionship in marriage when both the man and the woman _____ their parents and become _____ together as _____.

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13. Both the man and the woman must leave their parents and become united together as one body.

In what scripture do we find the three basic characteristics of marriage? _____

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14. The three basic characteristics of marriage are found in Genesis 2:24.

A beautiful marriage companionship takes place when a man and a woman _____ their parents and become _____ as _____ both _____ and _____.

UNIT ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

LESSON FOUR: A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP

1. We have learned that marriage is a beautiful companionship designed by God. This special companionship takes place when a man and a woman leave the relationship they have with their parents and form a new relationship. To form the new relationship they must be united into one body both spiritually and physically. These basic characteristics of marriage are stated by God at creation in Genesis 2:24. This scripture is so important that we find it used three times in the New Testament.

In front of each scripture write the name of the person who used Genesis 2:24 to teach about marriage.

- _____ a) Matthew 19:4-5 (Who is speaking?)
 - _____ b) Mark 10:6-8 (Who is speaking?)
 - _____ c) Ephesians 5:31(Who wrote this letter to the Ephesians?)
- =====

2. Both Jesus and Paul used Genesis 2:24 when they taught about marriage. Both indicate that these basic characteristics of marriage are to be respected and followed by all people. God has never changed his teaching and purpose for marriage. Both Jesus and Paul mention a fourth characteristic about marriage that is necessary to make it a beautiful and wonderful companionship.

Matthew 19:4-6

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Whom did Jesus say had joined a man and a woman together in marriage? _____

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3. God is the one who has joined a man and a woman together in marriage. God designed the relationship. He joins each man and woman together in their marriage relationship. Each relationship is holy before God.

Mark 10:6-9

"But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

God said that no man has the right to _____ a marriage.

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4. No man has the right to separate a marriage because God is the one who formed the marriage. Every marriage couple has been joined together by God's design. Their relationship is holy before him.

Who has the right to separate a marriage? (write yes or no on each line)

_____ Man
_____ God

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5. Only God has a right to separate a marriage. In unit seven of our study you will learn how this is done. You will see that God allows very few marriages to be separated. Read these words of the Apostle Paul about marriage:

1 Corinthians 7:39

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives.

How long is the woman bound to the marriage relationship with her husband? _____

=====

6. Paul said that a woman is bound to the marriage relationship with her husband as long as the husband is alive. Jesus said that man cannot separate a marriage relationship.

Which word best describes the kind of relationship God designed for marriage?

_____ a) temporary
_____ b) permanent
_____ c) occasional

=====

7. God designed marriage to be a permanent relationship. Only God can separate it. In the time of the Old Testament, God was not happy with the Jewish people for many reasons. God told the Jewish people about one of these reasons through the prophet Malachi.

Malachi 2:14

You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

God was not happy with the Jewish people because many of the men had _____ their marriage partner.

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8. Many of the Jewish men broke faith or separated from their marriage partners. They separated from the wife they married when they were young.

Malachi said that the man separated from his wife even though she was his _____.
(Malachi 2:14)

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9. Even though the wife had been his marriage partner since youth the man had wrongly broken faith with her.

The wife of his youth was the wife of his marriage C _____ (Read again Malachi 2:14)

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10. The wife of his youth was the wife of his marriage covenant. A covenant is an agreement between two people. A marriage covenant is an agreement between a man and a woman to live together as one body as long as they both live.

Malachi 2:15

Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring [children]. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Who made the man and the woman to be one body? _____

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11. God or the Lord made them to be one.

Who has the right to separate them? _____

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12. Only God has the right to separate them. God designed marriage to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman. When a man and a woman make a marriage covenant, they promise to be one body for the rest of their life. The man does not have the right to break this marriage covenant with his wife.

The marriage covenant is a P _____ relationship that only God can separate.

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13. The marriage covenant is a permanent relationship. It is not just for the sexual act alone. It is not just for a few moments, a few months or for a few years. It is a permanent commitment to be united in flesh and spirit for as long as you both shall live. It is the strongest relationship among human beings .

Marriage is a _____ relationship between a man and a woman that only God can break.

=====

14. Marriage is a permanent covenant relationship. It is the most important commitment in life after your commitment to God. It is a commitment between a man and a woman to be loyal to each other. They share goals and responsibilities as one body for as long as they both are alive.

In this lesson you learned a fourth characteristic of marriage. Can you write all four characteristics of marriage on the lines below?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

UNIT ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

LESSON FIVE: CORRUPTED BY SATAN AND MANKIND

1. You have learned that God designed marriage to be a wonderful companionship. This companionship becomes beautiful when a man and a woman leave their parents and unite together physically and spiritually as one body for as long as they both are alive. You have probably noticed that some of these basic characteristics of marriage are in disagreement with your culture. You may also know from experience and from watching people that these characteristics are not easy to follow. Let me assure you again that God was serious when he designed the marriage relationship. It is the perfect relationship for a man and a woman. It is such a perfect spiritual relationship that God uses it to describe the relationship he wishes to have with human beings.

Read the scriptures below. In front of **each** scripture write the letter of the statement that explains the passage. (Choose A, B, or C for each scripture.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Isaiah 54:5-8 | A. The Church is like the bride(wife) of Christ |
| _____ Ephesians 5:25-32 | B. Christ loves the Church like a man loves his wife. |
| _____ 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 19:7 | C. God takes back Israel as a husband takes back the unfaithful wife that he loves. |

2. God was like a husband to Israel. Christ loves the Church like a man loves his wife. The Church is being prepared for a glorious relationship with Christ like a bride prepares for her husband. God uses the marriage relationship to describe the relationship that he wants to have with human beings.

Perhaps God designed marriage to prepare us for heaven. But why is the marriage relationship not always like heaven? The answer is found in the account of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent [Satan] was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Who caused Eve to question God's design and purpose in creation? _____

3. Satan, the enemy of God, caused Eve to question (doubt) God's design in creation. God had told Adam and Eve that they were free to eat from every tree in the garden except one.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

What knowledge did Adam and Eve gain when they ate from the tree? _____

4. Adam and Eve gained knowledge of good and evil when they ate from the tree. Before they ate from the tree, they were innocent. They lived in perfect agreement with each other and with God. They did not know about the evil things they could do. They only knew that one thing was wrong.

In the beginning, what is the only thing that Adam and Eve knew was wrong? _____

5. The only thing that Adam and Eve knew to be wrong was to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, Satan encouraged Eve to doubt that God was being honest with them.

What did God say would happen if they ate from the tree? (Genesis 3:1) _____

6. God said they would die. Read what Satan said about the words of God.

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan wanted Eve to doubt that she _____.

7. Satan wanted Eve to doubt that she would die if she ate the fruit.

What good benefit did Satan say would come from eating the fruit? _____

8. Satan said they would be like God. Their eyes (mind) would be opened and they would know good and evil. God was wise **not** to give Adam and Eve the knowledge of good and evil. He knew it would be difficult for them to resist the temptations. However, he did not refuse it to them. He gave them a choice and he warned them what would happen if they made the wrong choice. Satan had the knowledge of evil. He used this knowledge to lie to Eve. He encouraged her to doubt God.

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Who decided to doubt God and to eat the fruit, Adam and Eve or Satan? _____

9. Adam and Eve decided to doubt God and to eat the fruit. Satan encourages us to doubt God's wisdom. He also deceives us with lies that are directly against the words of God. We always have a choice between believing the word of God and believing the lies of Satan.

Who has to decide between believing the word of God and believing the lies of Satan? _____

10. Adam and Eve had to decide between believing the word of God and believing the lies of Satan. We also have to make the same decision. We can believe what God says about marriage or we can believe the lies of Satan.

Satan used a snake to deceive Eve and tell her lies. Mark all the things that Satan uses today to tell us lies.

- worldly books and magazines
- the Bible
- our culture
- non-Christian authorities (counselors) on marriage
- sincere Christians who teach God's word.
- people who use God's word for their own personal gain
- movies, television and the internet

11. Satan has many ways to tell us lies about marriage. However, we can trust God's word and sincere Christians who teach God's word. Now let us see what happened immediately after Adam and Eve ate the fruit.

Genesis 3:22-23

And the LORD God said, "The man [mankind] has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished [put out] him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

For what reason did God banish Adam and Eve from of the Garden? _____

12. Adam and Eve knew good and evil. They could not resist the temptations. They began to follow evil desires. They developed their own way of living (culture) to satisfy their evil desires. The beautiful Garden of Eden was corrupted by sin. The beautiful marriage relationship between Adam and Eve was also corrupted. I am sure they lied to each other, were selfish and had many arguments. God was no longer happy with them. The knowledge of evil corrupted the image of God in them. Their spirit was no longer like his spirit.

The beautiful marriage relationship that God designed for Adam and Eve was destroyed by the knowledge of _____.

13. The knowledge of evil destroyed the beautiful marriage relationship God designed for Adam and Eve. This knowledge of evil was passed down to each generation of children. Since God is holy and pure, he could no longer be close to them or to their children.

The forbidden tree gave human beings the knowledge of _____ and evil.

14. Human beings also have the knowledge of good. We always have a choice between good and evil. However, the lies of Satan and our own evil desires confuse and deceive us so that we are not always sure what is right and what is wrong in marriage.

Where can we find the truth about what is right and what is wrong in marriage? _____

15. We can be sure of what is right and what is wrong in marriage by studying God's word and listening to sincere Christians teach God's word.

(question on next page)

What has corrupted the beautiful companionship that God designed for marriage? _____

PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

(At the end each unit of study, you will be given some questions to think about or some work to do to prepare for the weekly discussion. You may also have some things that you would like to bring up for discussion. Always be sure that the thing you bring for discussion is directly related to the main topic of study for the week. The purpose of the discussion time is to understand the application of God's word to our life, our marriage and our service in God's kingdom.)

Please remember that the purpose of this first unit of lessons is to give you God's basic design and plan for marriage. Each culture has its own way of dealing with the marriage relationship. By culture we mean the way that a nation or a society deals with relationships, accomplishes tasks, solves problems and meets everyday needs. These ways can become traditions that are passed down from one generation to the next. However, modern cultures are changing all the time. Influence from other culture and influence from within a culture bring about different ways of doing things. Sometimes these changes are good and sometimes they are bad.

I am sure that you have found many things in this first unit of lessons that are different from your culture. Many of the differences between your culture and what the Bible teaches about marriage will be discussed in later lessons. This week we will not discuss whether the culture is good or bad. We will not discuss any solutions to the differences between Christianity and your culture. Those things will be discussed in later lessons after you have studied them in detail.

ONE: List the differences between your culture and the four basic characteristics of God's plan for marriage:

- a. Leave parents
- b. Be united
- c. Become one body
- d. A permanent relationship.

TWO: Do you agree with the author's interpretation of God's plan for marriage based upon the scriptures he has used? Do not bring examples out of the Old Testament for your discussion. Examples of how men lived, even holy men, do not prove that clear teachings are wrong. Keep your discussion to clear basic teachings on marriage found in the Bible. This week we only want to look at the basics. If you look through the lesson titles in the *Table of Contents* in the front of the book you will probably see that the topic you want to discuss will be studied at a later time.

THREE: Be prepared to discuss how the fall of man into sin affected God's plan for marriage.