**Lesson 1** **The Creation of a Family**

Genesis 2:4-25

 A marriage is a sacred commitment to God and to each other. This is because a marriage is established by God, for God, and in God.

1. **How did God create men? (1:26-27, 2:7) What is the image of God in men?**

God created men in his own image: holiness, love, faithfulness, co-operative, merciful. All these are the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-24) Holy means ‘separate’ from animals.

Since a man was created in God’s image, he can grow spiritually up to the level of Jesus.

 God created a man as a ruler & steward. A man should learn how to take care and responsible for his family---to be a good steward.

1. **How did God make a woman? (2:18-22) Why? (18, 20b, 1 Pe 3:7)**

God made a woman out of a man’s rib---which means a woman is one flesh.

Ribs protects a heart.

God made a woman for a suitable helper for a man to work for the work of God.

A woman is a weak partner. (1 Pe 3:7)

**7**Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Do not put any obstacles before God for and from each other. The each relationship with God should be respected.

1. **Who initiated a marriage and for what? How did the man respond when he married the woman? (23)**

God initiated a marriage for man’s happiness.

She is my bone of bones and flesh of flesh. Adam was so happy to see her.

A husband and wife has equal right to become happy.

1. **What does ‘united’ mean? (24) How does this teach us about their relationship between a husband and a wife should be? (25) Why their marriage is sacred before God? (Mt 19:4-6)**

United’ means ‘to be one in spirit, in goal, faith, spirit,’ They can be one when they remain in Jesus. (Jn 15:5)

Both naked, but felt no shame: honest and transparent between the two. Nothing hidden between the two---trust and love relationship. They have to live for the glory of God.

What God had joined, let men not separate----commitment, marriage vow in the presence of God.

**4**“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mt+19%3A4-6%2C+Malachi+2%3A16-18&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23767a)] **5**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’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mt+19%3A4-6%2C+Malachi+2%3A16-18&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23768b)]? **6**So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

**Malachi 2:13-16**  **13**Another thing you do: You flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. **14**You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

**15**Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi+2%3A13-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23119a)] So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

**16**“The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi+2%3A13-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23120b)] says the Lord Almighty.

So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

**Eccle 4:12**  **12**Though one may be overpowered,
    two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.