

General Church Education



Family Lesson: Genesis 2

A Wife for Adam

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Family Lesson 1-D

A Wife for Adam
Genesis 2:18-25

Family Talk:
A HELPER FOR ADAM

In our story Adam was all alone, and the Lord was sorry for him. “No,” you might say, “He wasn’t alone, he had all the animals with him.”

That’s right. He had all the animals with him, and they were beautiful and good to have around him. But they weren’t enough. He needed someone special. So the Lord made someone for him. He made Eve, the woman.

First the Lord showed Adam all the animals, and he named them, and saw that each of them was nice in its own way. But none of them could be a helper for him.

The woman could. She could understand how he felt, she could talk with him about the things he cared about. He could love her and understand how she felt, and talk with her. When he saw her he realized how beautiful she was, and he was thrilled, and called her a part of him — “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”

Today the world is full of people, and each one of us is made by the Lord to have one special person to be our “helper,” the person who loves us more than anyone else in all the world. That person is the one who will be our married partner, our husband or wife. Some people are lucky enough to find him or her on earth. Some others are not quite as lucky, but they do find their partner in heaven, and forever afterwards love that person the most.

You know, as you grow up, you will meet many people. Many of them will be good friends. You may come to love many of them — uncles, aunts, grandparents, and friends. But the Lord will eventually lead you to find just one person you can love more than anyone else. This is the person you will marry.

What will be special about that person? Why will you love him or her more than anyone else? Well, you won't be able to say why. After all, other people won't think he or she is the most special person in the world. Only you will think that.

But there is a secret reason why. It is because, just as the Lord made Eve only for Adam, so He makes someone only for you. He makes that person, and cares for him or her, and at the right time He brings you together, and if you have been trying to follow the Lord you will recognize each other, and fall in love and marry.

It doesn't always happen in this world. In fact, the Writings for the New Church talk about young people who grow up in heaven, and how they meet, as if by accident, and in heaven they know right away that they are made for each other. After a little while they get up the courage to speak to each other, and they find that the other person feels the same way, and they promise to marry.

Of one thing you can be sure. Somewhere the Lord has made a person just for you, and you are made just for that person. Everyone who will ever get to heaven will be married to someone whom he or she can love forever. And, the Writings tell us, the happiness you get from that love is the most wonderful, the most precious thing you can possibly have.

So think about that special person who is somewhere. Think about how good the Lord is, for making him or her, and for leading you both, and caring for you both until you are led together. And pray to the Lord to teach you to follow Him so that He may lead you to meet him or her, and know the happiness of true marriage love.



A Wife for Adam

Genesis 2:18-25

LEVEL 1 – STICK PUPPETS OF AN ANGEL COUPLE

MATERIALS NEEDED

Crayons, scissors

Glue, two popsicle sticks

Optional:

Sequins or glitter

Rocks, pebbles,

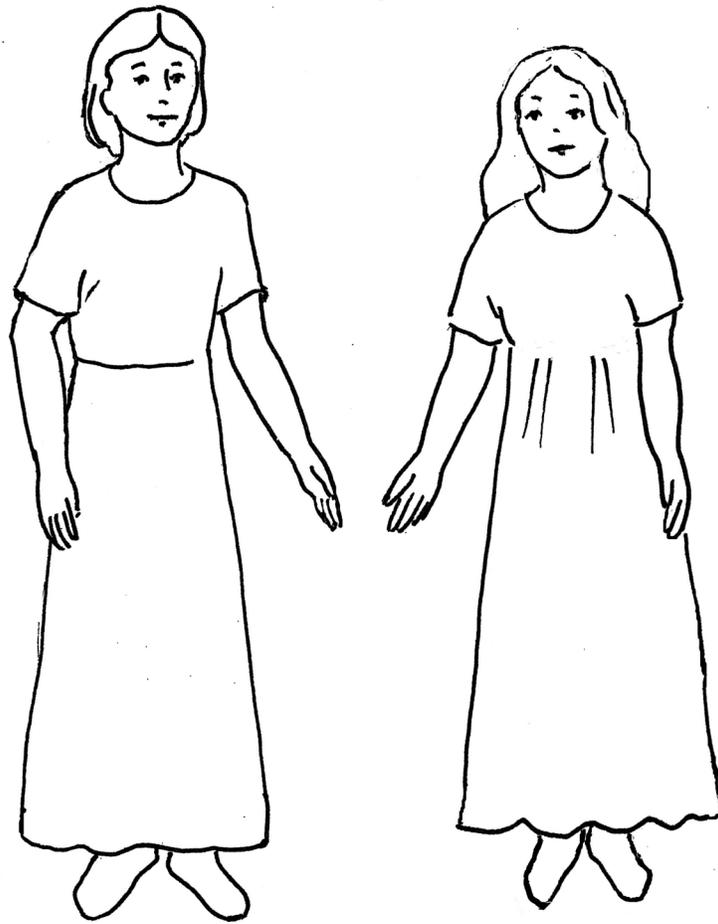
Flowers, grass trimmings

Directions for project:

1. Have your child color and then cut out the husband and wife angel figures (on page 2). Cut out figures for your children if they are too young to use scissors.
2. Spread glue on half of each popsicle stick and place lower half of figures onto glue, allowing to dry for a few minutes.
3. You could help your child glue sequins or glitter onto figures, perhaps as jewels or light from the angels. (See *Conjugal Love* 42 for a beautiful description of a husband and wife in heaven.)
4. You could also make a garden for the angel pair in the grass or in a sandbox, using the suggested materials.

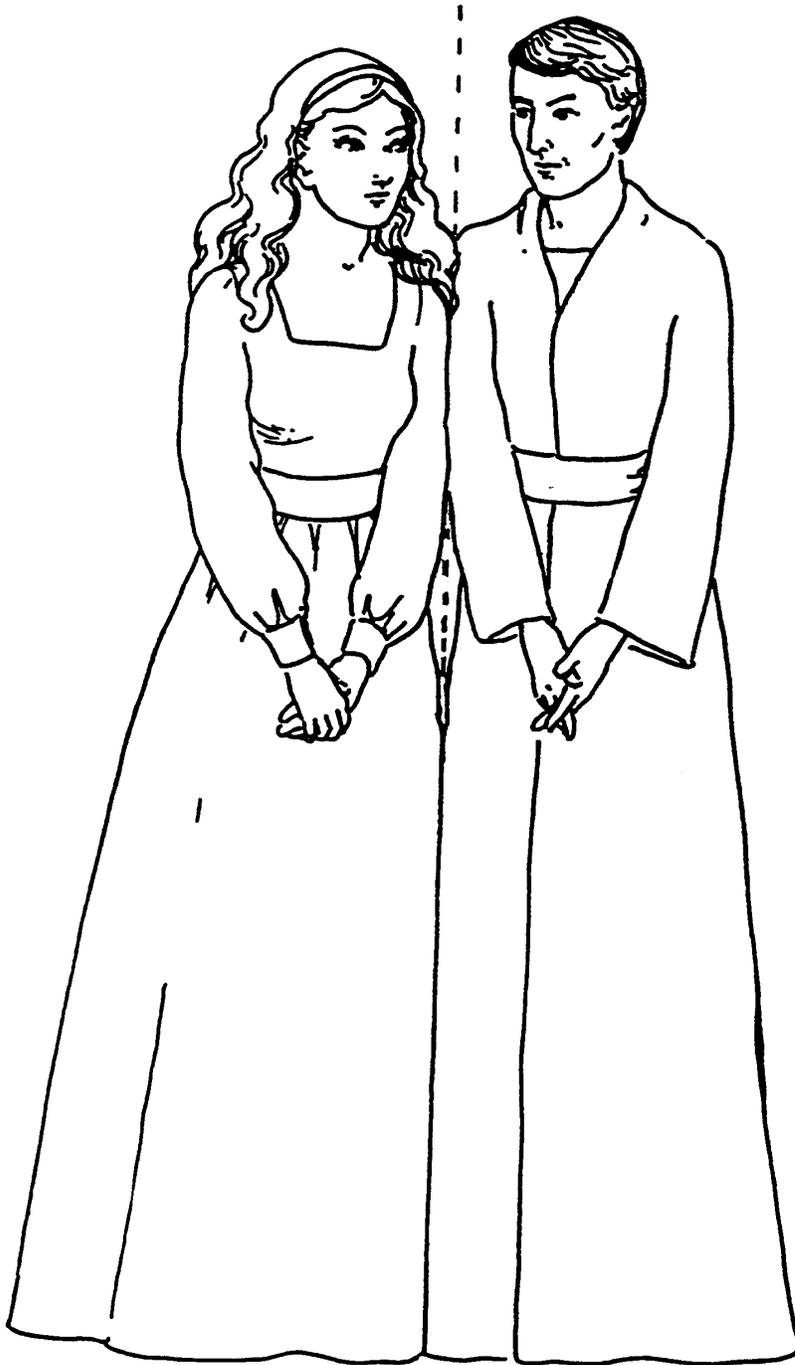


Show your children how the figures can hold hands or put their arms around each other. Emphasize how the married couple loves to be together. Explain to your children about how people meet their partners in the other world, the uses they perform, how they are young and strong and live together in lovely homes forever.



A Wife for Adam
GENESIS 2:18-25
LEVEL 2 – A HELPER FOR ADAM

A HELPER FOR ADAM



The Lord gave Adam a wife named Eve.

Did you know that from a distance a man and wife in heaven look like one angel?

Cut out the man and his wife keeping them joined together. Then fold along the dotted line.

These figures show a marriage in heaven. When you fold them, you will see one angel. When you open them up, you will see a married pair.

A Wife for Adam

Genesis 2:18-25

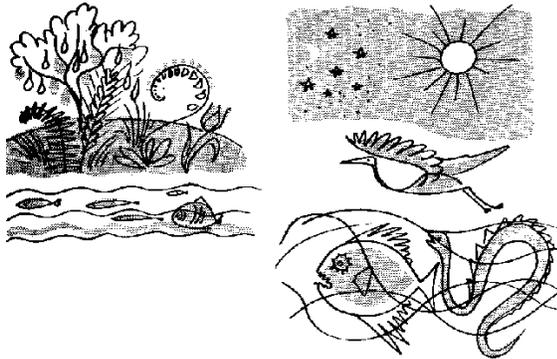
LEVEL 3 – A WIFE AND HELPER FOR ADAM

MATERIALS NEEDED

The Word or a Bible

Pencil or Pen

The Lord created the world because He had so much love that He wanted to share. He wanted people He could love and who would love Him. He wanted this love to continue forever, to never stop. He made heaven so that people, after their life on earth, could go there and continue to love the Lord and never stop. The Lord made people, both men and women, so they could marry and have children, and their children could marry and have children and so on. Because of marriages, there could continue to be people on earth and in heaven who could worship and love the Lord.



God made them all and he was pleased with what he saw (Gen. 1:25)

The Lord loved people so much He wanted to make the earth a beautiful place for them to live in. He gave people everything they needed to be happy. Genesis 2:8-20 describes the beautiful place the Lord gave Adam to live in. Read these verses.

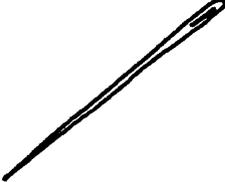
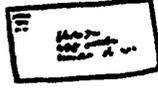
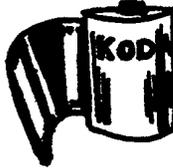
Adam had all these beautiful things, yet something was missing. What was missing? What did Adam still need?

He needed a helper. He needed someone to help him make a marriage. Someone to help him love the Lord on earth and in heaven. There was only one kind of helper that would be the right kind of helper for Adam and that was a woman.

There are many things we want to do, but we can't do them unless we have the right things to do them with. Perhaps you want to draw a picture, you have some paper but you don't have anything to make lines on the paper. Unless you get a pencil or something else to draw with you won't be able to make a picture. Is the paper better or more useful than the pencil? Is the pencil better or more useful than the paper? No, they each do different things, don't they? You need both of them if you are going to draw a picture.

Application:

- a) On the next page are some pictures.
- b) At the top of each picture are words that describe an activity or job to be done, and in the picture is one of the things you need to have to do the activity.
- c) Draw or write in what is missing from the picture or what else you need to do the activity.

<p style="text-align: center;">SEW</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Needle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLAY BASKETBALL</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Basket</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAIL A LETTER</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Envelope</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BUILD WITH WOOD</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Hammer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CUT MEAT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Fork</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DRINK JUICE</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Juice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TAKE A PHOTO</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Film</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LIGHT A CANDLE</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Candle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p>

WHAT'S MISSING?

In each picture above, is the thing that is missing any better than what is in the picture? _____ Is it any worse? _____ Is each thing different? _____
 Could you do the job with just one thing or the other? _____
 Does each thing do part of the job? _____ Could you do the job without both things? _____

Just as you need the thing in the picture and the missing thing to do the job, the world needs both men and women to perform the jobs or uses of the world. Men are not better than women. Women are not better than men. Men and women are different. They each bring their special qualities to the uses they perform. The important use of marriage can not exist without a man and a woman. Adam needed Eve to help him. Marriages are needed on earth and in heaven so that a husband and wife can love each other and together they can be one in their love to the Lord which will never stop.

A Wife for Adam

Genesis 2:18-25

LEVEL 4 – THE CREATION OF MEN AND WOMEN

Here are two passages from the WORD which both seem to be telling of the creation of men and women:

- 1) “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it’” (*Genesis 1:27-28*).
- 2) “And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he fell asleep; and He took one of his ribs, and He closed up the flesh in its place. And Jehovah God built the rib which He took from the man into a woman and brought her to the man” (*Genesis 2:21-22*).



Would God have needed to create woman out of a rib of man's if He had already created her at the same time that He created man? Of course not. In the second passage He is telling us a story which has a separate meaning. Nobody could know the meaning of this story until the Lord told it to us in the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Church.

The Heavenly Doctrines tell us that in this story the rib, an almost lifeless bone, represents the 'self.' Humankind wanted to know himself and feel that he was something separate from the Creator. We can see this feeling in a little child who begins to want to do things his way. God knew that this was not the best way to see life, but that it was another way for people to grow up in freedom. So He "built a rib" for man, which is our sense of ourselves.

We can use our knowledge of ourselves in either of two ways. If we always think of ourselves first, our self will lead us toward Hell. If we use our knowledge of ourselves to find better ways to serve others and the Lord, it will be a helper to get to Heaven. Better understanding of the talents and desires that the Lord gave us will help us love Him more, and help us see what we can do best for the neighbor.

Application:

Each of the statements on the next page is a thought a person could have or something he might say.

Decide which way each uses "self"— selfishness or good self — and put a check in that column.

STATEMENT	SELFISHNESS	GOOD SELF
I want the candy she has.		
I am a better ballplayer, why did you pick him?		
I could take her some flowers since she is sick.		
I am hungry. Give me more of the sandwiches.		
I will be a great singer and make everyone happy.		
I will be a great singer and everyone will admire me.		
I can't do anything right.		
Let me help you with that job.		
I wonder why the Lord made me so smart?		
I hate this homework. I won't do it.		
I already know all this		
I would like to know more about it.		
I want to take that girl out. If my friends saw me with her they'd really be impressed.		
I am a better person when I am with that group of people.		
I love to watch you dance. You are really good.		
I love you.		
I don't care.		
Give me some of your candy - you have too much.		
Will you help me?		
May I help you?		

A Wife for Adam
Genesis 2:18-25
LEVEL 5 – ADAM'S RIB

The lesson for this talk is rather an unusual one. It has two messages in the internal sense, quite different in tone, and yet they fit together. For this lesson we will concentrate on the one which deals with marriage.

If you ask the Lord in His Word which sex is more likely to be conceited, the answer would be the male sex. Women have other faults, but conceit in his own abilities tends to be one of men's faults.

This is because the Lord made men with a keen interest in learning and becoming both intelligent and wise. Of course not all men are wise like philosophers or college professors are. But each man wants to have knowledge and good judgment in certain areas. It might be in his work—in physics or how to make a car run properly. It might be in deciding what is the best thing to do in life.

This “love of becoming wise” is something the Lord has given to male man. The trouble is that once they become wise, or capable, they have a tendency to be rather proud of themselves. Conceit is a destructive thing. It's a self-centered love.

This is the bone that the Lord took out of male man and made into a woman. He made women to love the wisdom of their husbands. Now, all of a sudden, that love becomes beautiful. You see, if men love their own wisdom, that's an ugly love, but when their wives love their husbands' wisdom, it is an appropriate and beautiful love.

This is one of the secrets of marriage. Each sex loves something good in the other which it doesn't have. The wife loves her husband's “rational” wisdom, which she senses is more effective than her own. The husband loves the wife for her special brand of wisdom too—she has the ability to understand feelings and to guide them. This wisdom of wives is something the Writings of the New Church have revealed.

Why does it say in the story that the Lord took a bone from close to the heart of the man? Because a man tends to love his own wisdom, to be conceited. His conceit is close to his heart. Tell a man he's stupid in his job, and see how quickly he is hurt. He needs to feel he is good at what he does, and that feeling tends to turn to conceit. But in a true marriage he stops feeling that way, and loves his wife. He realizes all the things she has that he doesn't have—her gentleness, the strength of her love, and the wisdom she shows in knowing how others feel and in helping them with their feelings.

The man's love for his wife is also meant by the Lord's teaching that “Therefore a man shall leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh.” Note that it doesn't say that the wife should cleave to the husband but the other way round. He is to leave his own conceit and love his wife instead.

The special love of a husband for a wife is based on the *differences* between them. Men and women are equal, but they are different. Therefore each offers something that the other does not do as well. And the Lord made them to be attracted towards the differences—to see beauty and goodness in the other.

Application

Here is a list of some differences between men and women which you may not have known. See if you can add some things to the list. Include mental differences you see between men and women.

1. Every cell in the body of each sex is different.
2. The basal metabolism in women is lower.
3. Differences in the skeletal structure—a woman's chin is less protuberant, she has shorter legs, a longer trunk.
4. Women have a larger stomach, kidneys, liver, and appendix.
5. Women have smaller lungs.
6. Women have more hormones.
7. The same gland functions differently in each sex—for example, the woman's thyroid is larger and more active.
8. The heart beats more rapidly in women than in men—the average is 80 as opposed to 72.
9. The blood pressure in women is 10 points lower, and she has less tendency to high blood pressure.
10. The breathing power of women is approximately 70% that of men.
11. A woman withstands high temperature better than men — her metabolism slows down less.