MADE FOR THIS

Humanity was created for community. The concept is rooted in creation. First, we were created in the image of a triune God. (Genesis 1:26, 27). While we cannot fully comprehend it, the one true God exists as a plurality. Yet we get a glimpse into that reality when we consider the plurality of humanity that He created in His image.

Our need for belonging, then, is built into our very being. It is no wonder that our overall health and wellbeing is tied to our experience of community. The more an individual is integrated into a healthy community, the more likely that they will have good health outcomes.

The most intimate of communal relationships is the marriage union. When God declared, “It is not good that man should be alone,” He indicated the human need for community. God then proceeded to meet that need by establishing a family founded in marital union. It is too narrow to say God’s declaration indicates merely the human need for marriage. The text would not support those who may exclude marriage since this was God’s immediate response to the scenario. We need community, and our first experience of community is in families, which find their genesis in marriage.

Marriage is clearly part of God’s plan for humanity. And we have established that it helps us meet the need for community. In an ideal world, everyone would marry appropriately and raise godly children. But in the sinful world that we live in, not everyone will get married, not everyone will bear children. Everyone still needs community.
Write out Genesis 2:15–25 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Genesis 2:20–25. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 2:15–25. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What sets Christian marriages apart from worldly ones? What are values of marriage that you want to embody?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will8-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what ways, other than having children, can a couple be fruitful and multiply?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will8-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Exodus 20:1–17
- John 2:1–11
- 1 Corinthians 13

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Genesis 2:15–25?

Review your memorized verse from Genesis 2:15–25.
How can Jesus be the role model for married couples when He was never married?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Genesis 2:15–25 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will8-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/will8-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does your local church minister to the need for community among those who are single in your congregation?

List the qualities to look for in the type of spouse who would make for a good partner in ministry.

What room is there for personal preference in seeking a spouse?

Can/should a husband and wife have different individual ministries?

Where does attraction in a spouse rank in importance?

List some examples of categories of people who would fit the three categories of singles as classified by Jesus. For example, a widow/widower would be circumstantially single.