Moses is careful to clarify that when God created humanity in His image, He made them male and female—a plurality of two sexual beings (Gen. 1:27). When referring to Himself, He uses plural pronouns: “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Gen. 1:26). The mystery of the triune God is signaled: three separate Beings yet one God.

Having created humanity as male and female, God then establishes the normative marriage between one man and one woman. The Septuagint translation of Genesis 2:24 adds a numerical specification to the one flesh declaration not present in the original Hebrew. It reads, “The two shall be one flesh.” This editorial interpretation underscores the fact that the verse is referencing the union of one male and one female to form one flesh: 1+1=1. It is a simple formula with a myriad of implications that will be explored in the next few lessons.

This lesson will explore the significance of the number of components in the first part of the equation. A marriage is not composed of a singularity, nor is it composed of a nondescript plurality, but it is specifically composed of a duality. The previous lesson addressed the second half of the equation, where two individuals come together to form one flesh. The two lessons after this one will turn to the nature of the elements in the first half of the equation and find that the two individuals are both the same and different. The sameness and difference are essential to the proper functioning of the equation. For the current lesson, though, we talk numbers.
Write out Ecclesiastes 2:1–11 from the Bible translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or 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 from Ecclesiastes 2:1–11. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are the dangers of having multiple sexual partners?

How is it that Abraham, David, and Solomon were blessed by God in spite of their polygamy?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex06-3
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?

Why is it false to define masturbation as the simple physical act of scratching an itch?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 2:18, 21–24
Matthew 19:4, 5
1 Corinthians 6:16
Deuteronomy 17:16, 17
Romans 13:8–14

What other verses/promises come to mind with twoness?

Review your memorized verse from Ecclesiastes 2:1–11.
Where do you see Jesus in Ecclesiastes 2:1–11?

Can you truly see Jesus as the source of fulfilling pleasure?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

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

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex06-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

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

What are applications can be made in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex06-7
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.

What are some good reasons to pursue a monogamous relationship?

What are some bad reasons to pursue a monogamous relationship?

What does God’s ideal for marriage of one male and one female becoming one teach us about the Godhead?

What are practical tools for single people to navigate their sexual desires?

Is masturbation acceptable within the context of marriage? Why or why not?

How do the lives of Abraham, David, and Solomon (as well as other Bible heroes who practiced polygamy) serve as warnings against contravening God’s will with respect to monogamy?

What are some Bible examples of monogamy that you find encouraging?