

FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY

TALK IT OVER

Divine Design: Discovering God's Design for Family

Fight for Your Family - Week 4

Pastor Andy Wood

October 4-5, 2025

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV84); Genesis 2:20-25 (NIV84); Ephesians 5:21,25 (NIV84); Romans 12:1-2 (NIV84); 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV84); Joel 2:25 (NIV84); Isaiah 61:3 (NIV84); James 1:17 (NIV84)

Questions

1. There are many misconceptions with regard to marriage in the world today. Family works best when we trade in the world's lies for God's truth! What is God's Divine Design for the family? The Designer gets to tell us through Scripture! Read Genesis 1:26-28 aloud in your group. What does the passage reveal with regard to God's creation of and commands for the family?
2. The Hebrew word translated as "*helper*" (*ezer*), is a powerful word that signifies a strong, vital force of help, rescue, or saving power. It is used to describe both God as a divine helper and a woman as a suitable, strong counterpart. Read Genesis 2:20-25 aloud in your group. It begins by saying that "*for Adam no suitable helper was found.*" How does God create Eve, and what was Adam's response? What does it mean for a man and woman to "*become one flesh*"? How do Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:20-25 describe Eve's purpose and partnership with Adam?
3. In Genesis 1:27 (NIV), it says: "*God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*" How does this impact the way you see men and women? Discuss how the first man and the first woman were created "*in the image of God*"—equal before God—yet distinct from one another and complementary to one another.

4. In Genesis 2:24 (NIV84), after God created Eve from Adam's rib, it says, *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."* James 1:17 (NIV84) says, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* Discuss the perfection of God's divine design in creating Eve this way. God describes Adam and Eve's purpose in Genesis 1:28 (NIV84) by saying, *"Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."* Discuss God's divine design for Adam and Eve to *"become one flesh"*—and to covenant exclusively together, consummate together with God's blessing, and be fruitful and multiply.
5. Embrace the wisdom of God's way! If there were a better way, wouldn't you want to know it? God blesses His covenant way of family! Research confirms there is higher stability, more life satisfaction, greater emotional health, more financial stability, greater emotional closeness, lower divorce rates, and fewer regrets! Ephesians 5:21, 25 (NIV84) says, *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."* Discuss how Spirit-led submission to God's divine design for family is lived out in covenant commitment, roles and responsibility, and authority and order in Jesus Christ.
6. Read Romans 12:1–2 aloud. Where have you conformed to the world's pattern rather than God's divine design? Do you believe the lie that men and women are the same—rather than the truth that they're equal in value, different in role, and complementary in design? Do you believe the lie that marriage and family ruin your life—rather than the truth that they're a gift from God? Do you believe the lie that living together will help your intimacy—rather than the truth that marriage begins with a covenant, followed by intimacy? Do you believe the lie that if you're single something is wrong—rather than the truth that God calls some people to singleness for His purposes? Do you believe the lie that your situation is too far gone—rather than the truth that God restores broken marriages and families? How does Romans 12:1–2 say we can be transformed and *"able to test and approve" God's "good, pleasing and perfect will"*?
7. Not everyone is called to marriage—for example, Jesus and the Apostle Paul weren't married. 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV84) says, *"But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."* While the ideal of marriage is not always possible, surrender to God always is! God is able to bless anyone through the gifts He gives them! All He is asking is that you surrender the broken pieces of your life to Him! Joel 2:25 (NIV84) says, *"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten."* And in Isaiah 61:3 (NIV84), God promises to send His Messiah to bestow *"on those who grieve" "a crown of beauty instead of ashes."* God is a God of restoration who gave us Jesus; He died to pay the price so we could be restored to the heart of God. Discuss how God can make anyone whole in Jesus Christ who surrenders to His divine will for life, joy, and peace in Him!

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Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:
<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>
2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curricula.

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