

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Genesis 2:18-24; 4:1-2

Sunday, September 23, 2018

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If Adam could talk to God and have God’s help, why do you think Adam was alone (even though Adam did not feel the pain of loneliness) and needed a helper and partner?

Adam needed someone more like himself to be his helper and partner, though made in the image of God with

attributes similar to God's, the ability to think, feel, make choices, etc. Unlike God, Adam was finite and confined in time and space. Unlike God, Adam did not know all that God knows. Adam would grow in knowledge, but never know as much as God knows. Adam was alone because he needed someone like himself to share discoveries and growing self-awareness with over time and located in one place at a time. Both Adam and the woman could grow in many ways together, and they could bring children into their lives to have more and more people join them in developing their God-given abilities together.

2. Why do you think God first brought animals to Adam before God brought a woman to Adam?

Adam needed to learn intellectually and experientially that no animal could be the perfect helper and partner he needed. The animals and birds were not his kind. Animals and birds had their kind, but Adam did not yet have his kind. Adam could develop his mental powers of reason and deduction based on observation as God created and brought the animals to him one at a time.

3. Why do you think God wanted Adam to name all of the animals and birds rather than just name them Himself and tell Adam their names?

God gave dominion over all the animals to Adam and his descendants. By naming the animals, Adam would use his God-given imagination and reason to learn more about the

nature of each animal so he and his descendants could exercise dominion over each animal wisely according to their nature and attributes as created by God.

4. Do you think God allowed Adam to stay asleep when God created the woman from Adam's rib, or do you think God woke Adam so Adam could watch God create the woman from Adam's rib?

God was Adam's first parent and teacher. I think God would want Adam to see and learn as much as possible regarding the creation of the animals and the woman; therefore, I think God woke Adam up to watch and brought the woman to Adam after God blew the breath of life into her (explaining what He did and why).

5. What kind of clothing did God give the animals, the birds, and Adam and Eve when God created them? How did they feel about the clothes they wore?

God gave fur, feathers, and skin to the animals, birds, and Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were not ashamed to wear their skin as the clothes God gave them. After they sinned, they tried to make themselves new clothes because they were ashamed.