

God's original design (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18, 21-23)

- Image (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Helper (Genesis 2:18; Psalms 33:20)
- Rib/Side (Genesis 2:22)
- God's original design was for men and women to serve the purposes of God, reflecting the character of God, in humble unity with equal value.

The result of sin on the male/female relationship (Genesis 3:16)

- Genesis 3:16 describes the cursed, fallen state of how men will relate to women, not God's original design.

Women in the Old Testament (Exodus 15:20-21/Micah 6:4; Judges 4; Ruth; Esther; Proverbs 31; 2 Kings 22:14; Joel 2:28-29)

- God used women to lead & prophesy.
- To prophesy is to speak/preach on behalf of God to the people and to represent the people to God.

Women in the New Testament (Luke 2:36-38; Luke 24:9; Acts 2 (Joel 2:28-29); Acts 16; Acts 21:9; Romans 16:1-2; Romans 16:6-7; Acts 18:26)

- God used women to lead, prophesy/preach, and teach both men and women.

God's redemptive plan in gifting people to make His love known and build up His Church (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16)

- In speaking of the spiritual gifts given to people, and the corresponding roles in the church, these passages do not designate particular gifts/roles to men versus women.
- The clear emphasis is on: The Holy Spirit's gifting to all; character, love, unity, and the use of gifts for making God's love known and building up His Church.
- The overall Biblical context, linguistic and semantic contexts, and cultural context demonstrate with good reason that 1 Corinthians 11, 14; 1 Timothy 2, 3 are speaking to specific issues in those times.

**This template is for groups who continue to gather this summer while weekly, sermon-specific life group questions are not being provided.*

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

What has God been teaching you lately as you've been applying what you're learning about Him?

Looking up:

What about the sermon was challenging, helpful, new, or interesting to you?

Did this sermon cause you to think about any other related Scriptures?

How does this sermon most speak to how you can grow in: Loving God; Loving one another; or Making His love known?

How did this sermon press you into prayer? What did God show you in prayer?

Looking forward:

What step of action is God calling you to take based on this study? How can our life group pray for and support you?

Prayer: How can we be praying for one another? How can we be praying for those in our lives who are far from God but near to us relationally?