

HOME SWEET

HOME

WEEK ONE
GENESIS 2:24

HOME SWEET HOME

“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24 ESV

“When men lead and love well, everyone flourishes.”

Welcome Home

Every home starts somewhere long before the front door. It starts with who you believe you are, who you believe God made you to be, and whether you trust God with the life He's handed you. That's where this week begins. It doesn't start with marriage advice or parenting tips, but back at the very beginning, in the first three chapters of Genesis, before either of those existed.

This devotional walks alongside the message series "Home Sweet Home" and follows one story across seven days: a man formed from dust, given work worth doing, handed one boundary inside a garden of abundance, given a wife who is bone of his bone, and then watching it all come apart in a single afternoon followed, immediately, by a promise that it wouldn't stay broken.

No matter what season you're in this story is our story too: Identity. Purpose. Boundaries. Love. Failure. Grace.

Each day includes a short passage of scripture, a short devotional, three questions worth sitting with, one action to take before the day ends, and a prayer to pray whether you feel like praying it yet. Take your time. This isn't a box to check — it's a house being built, one day at a time.

DAY 1

The Man God Had in Mind

Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV)

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Before people ever did anything right or wrong, we were an idea in the mind of God. We weren't made in a lab. We weren't created by our culture. We weren't something dreamed up in a locker room or a boardroom. Human beings are God's idea. You, yourself, are God's idea. He said, "Let us make man," and then God made you.

That matters more than you think, because most of us build our sense of worth out of whatever's lying around us. We build our worth on what our parents did or didn't do for us, what we see in the mirror, what got us approval on a ballfield. None of that is bedrock. It shifts. God's Word doesn't.

Notice something else: "Male and Female He created them." Both are made in the image of God. Neither men nor women images who He is and what He does completely on their own. That's not a small detail. It means the home you're building only shows the full picture of God when it's got both of parents in it, doing what He made each of you to do.

Before this week gets practical. Before we talk about work, obedience, marriage, and the mess we make of all three, let's start here. You are not an accident, and you are not self-made. You are an idea God had, made flesh. Let that settle before you try to build anything on top of it.

Reflection

- Where have you been building your sense of worth out of something other than what God says about you? Culture, your parents, your own performance?

- What changes about how you carry yourself today if humankind really was God's idea and not yours to define?
- What would it look like this week to let your home reflect both who God made you and who God made her?

Action

Before you do anything else today, say it out loud where you can hear yourself: "I did not invent this. God did." Then go be who He made you to be in the first ordinary thing in front of you: school, the meeting, the kid who needs breakfast.

Prayer

Father, thank you that I am not an accident and not self-made. You said 'let us make man,' and you meant me. Forgive me for building my identity out of anything smaller than that. Today, let my life reflect the image you made me to carry — for the sake of my home, and for your glory. Amen.

DAY 2

Dust and Breath

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

"Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

Everything else in creation, God spoke into existence. Light: "Let there be light." Stars, oceans, animals are spoken in existence. When He gets to you, He stops speaking and starts forming. He gets His hands in the dirt.

It's easy to miss the fact that dust doesn't become a man just because it's shaped like one. Genesis is careful to show us two steps. First, God forms a body from the ground: a shell. Then He breathes into it. Without that second step, you've just got dirt wearing a body. It's the breath — His breath specifically— that makes it a living, walking, image-bearing man.

This fact sobers us and comfort us at the same time. It sobers us, because it means we can look like a man/woman on the outside and still be running on nothing but dirt on the inside if we don't have the breath of God's grace in us. It comforts us, because the God who formed us didn't leave us as a shell. He got close enough to breathe into us Himself. Not from a distance. Nostril to nostril.

If today we feel more like dust than like a living person -- tired, hollow, going through motions -- that's not a diagnosis you have to live with. It's an invitation. The same God who breathed once is still in the business of breathing life into dry places.

Reflection

- Where in your life right now do you feel more like "dust" than "living"?
- What would it look like this week to actually ask God to breathe into a specific dry, hollow place instead of just pushing through it?
- Who in your home needs to see you alive, not just present?

Action

Name one area of your life today --- work, relationships, parenting, your own soul -- where you've been running on dirt instead of breath. Ask God specifically, out loud, to breathe into that one place before the day is over.

Prayer

Lord, you didn't just shape me, you breathed into me. Where I've gone dry — where I'm just going through the motions of being a man instead of actually living as one — breathe again. Make me alive where I've settled for dust. Amen.

DAY 3

Work Worth Doing

Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

Write this down somewhere you'll see it: **Work is not a punishment.** It shows up two chapters before sin does in Genesis. Adam gets a job before he gets a wife, before he ever sins, before anything goes wrong. Work was God's idea, and it was good.

That matters because a lot of people either worship work or resent it, and both are wrong. Some of us have made our job our identity. You may struggle to know who you are without the title, the paycheck, the win. Others of us have decided work is just something to survive until the weekend. Genesis says neither. Work is a gift. It's the thing God hands us on our very first day, in a perfect garden, and says, "Here! Go make something out of this."

"Work it and keep it" isn't just about a garden. It's a pattern that God uses with us over and over. We take what God gives us and we cultivate it. Our relationships and marriage. Our kids. Our actual job. None of it runs idle. None of it flourishes because we showed up once. It takes daily, unglamorous tending and that tending is never beneath us. It's exactly what we were made for. Today, whatever's in front of us, handle it like a person who was handed a garden, not a sentence.

Reflection

- Have you tended to treat work as your identity, or as a burden to survive? What would treating it as a gift change?
- What in your home has been "planted" but not "kept" lately — something you started but stopped cultivating?
- What's one place today where tending something small and unglamorous is actually the most faithful thing you could do?

Action

Pick one thing today that you've been neglecting because it feels too small or too unglamorous to matter. It might be a conversation, a chore, or a follow-up you've been putting off. Do it well, on purpose, as an act of worship rather than an item to check off.

Prayer

God, thank you for the gift of work before there was ever a fall to recover from. Forgive me for either worshiping it or resenting it. Help me tend what you've given

me --- my job, my home, my people --- with the same care you had when you planted a garden and put me in it. Amen.

DAY 4

The Freedom of One “No”

Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV)

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

Count the trees God said no to in the garden. One. Just one. Everything else (“you may surely eat”) was wide open. If we ever find yourself thinking God is mostly in the business of taking things away from us, go back and read this verse again. Before sin and fall of Adam and Eve, God’s first command to Adam was ninety-nine percent yes and one percent no. Even the no was for his own good.

How we see God is the most important thing about us. We tend to build this idea of God as a cosmic security guard who stands between us and everything we actually want. But that’s not what Eden shows us. Obedience didn’t take away freedom. It protected it. The one boundary existed to protect the abundance, not keep them from it.

Here’s where this gets personal for us: Our household runs on the same principle. The boundaries we keep, especially the ones we hold to even when nobody’s watching, aren’t there to shrink our life. They protect it. The husband who’s faithful to one woman isn’t missing out on freedom; he’s guarding it. The wife who says no to certain things isn’t being small. She’s making room for everything that matters to flourish.

So the question isn’t whether God’s commands feel restrictive today. It’s whether we trust that the one “no” is there to protect everything He already said “yes” to and wants to give us.

Reflection

- Where have you started resenting a boundary God has clearly set, instead of trusting it's protecting something good?
- What "one tree" in your life right now feels like the hardest no to keep? What is it guarding?
- Does your household see your convictions as restrictive or as protective? How would they know the difference?

Action

Identify the one boundary you're most tempted to cross right now (finances, your eyes, your words, abuse of time) and tell one trusted person about it today. Don't manage it alone in the dark; bring it into the light where it's easier to hold.

Prayer

Father, thank you for how much you've said yes to. Forgive me for the times I've resented your one no more than I've thanked you for everything else. Give me the strength today to trust that your boundaries protect my home rather than restrict it. Amen.

DAY 5

Bone of My Bone

Genesis 2:18, 21–24 (ESV)

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Notice the order: God doesn't bring Eve to Adam first. Adam gets a job, a command, a name for every animal on the planet, and only after his world has some order to it does God bring him a wife. That's not accidental. It's a pattern. A man who hasn't gotten his own life in order isn't ready to build a home with someone else in it.

Look at what Adam says when he finally sees her. It's not a checklist of qualifications met. He writes a poem: "Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh." The first words ever spoken by a man to a woman in human history were a song, not a transaction.

This is the blueprint for "leave and cleave." Leave is a decisive break from the priorities and permissions of your old household. Cleave means to hold fast, stick like nothing else in your life, to this one woman. Not a passive drift into marriage, but a decision made and remade daily. At a wedding, this is why the pastor says that it unites the couple's families and creates a new family. This new family is the new priority. The family we grow up in becomes second to this new family God has created.

If your home feels more like two roommates coexisting than one flesh, it's important to talk about this sometime. Somewhere along the way, "leave and cleave" can quietly become "leave and coexist." God's design was never coexistence. It was one flesh. One flesh means the other person is as much your own body as your body is your own. One flesh is a bond that costs you something to keep and is worth everything it costs.

Reflection

- Is there an area of your life you still need to "get in order" before you can fully show up for the people in your home?
- Where has "cleave" quietly become "coexist" in your marriage or closest relationships?
- What would it look like to speak to your spouse (or, if single, to treat the women/man in your life) with the same honor Adam's first words carried?

Action

Say something to your spouse today that is out loud and specific that names what you value about him/her and not what you need from them. If you're single, write down what "leaving and cleaving" would require of you so you're ready when it matters.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the gift of “one flesh.” This is a love that costs something and is worth everything. Where I’m drifting from cleaving into merely coexisting, draw me back. Give me words today that sound more like a song than a transaction. Amen.

DAY 6

When the House Divided

Genesis 3:1–9 (ESV, abridged)

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made... So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate... Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”

Here’s the detail that gets skipped over more than any other in this chapter: “Eve also gave some to her husband who was with her.” WITH HER! Not off somewhere else working. Not ignorant of what was happening. Adam was standing right there elbow to elbow as the serpent talked his wife into the worst decision in human history. His response? He said nothing. The silence of Adam.

Adam’s sin in this passage isn’t primarily what he did. It’s what he didn’t do. He was present, but passive. He had a voice, God-given authority, and a wife being deceived three feet away from him, and he used none of it. That’s the first sin of a husband in scripture. It’s not aggression, it’s silence. It’s passivity.

We like to think the dangerous man is the one who does too much. The man who jumps into the arena and makes matters worse. Genesis says the more common danger is the man who does nothing at all. He’s technically present in his marriage, his kids’ lives, his church, but functionally checked out of all of it. Passivity feels safer than confrontation. It never is.

The question that echoes through every generation since Adam and Eve's sin has been: "Where are you?" God already knew. He's God after all. He was giving them the chance to step up and own it. Instead, they played hot potato with blame. Adam blamed the woman and God for giving her to him. Eve blamed the serpent instead of taking responsibility. When a home starts to divide, that's usually the pattern: passivity first, then blame. It's rarely honest ownership.

Reflection

- Where in your home or family are you present but passive: physically there, but not actually engaged?
- When something goes wrong close to you is your first instinct to take responsibility or to explain why it's not your fault?
- If God asked you today: "Where are you?" (spiritually-speaking) what would your honest answer be? Are you hiding from Him? Blaming Him? Ashamed of yourself?

Action

Think of one place where you've gone silent when you should have spoken up. It could be with your spouse, your kids, or a friend headed the wrong direction. Say the thing today you need to say. Don't let it become another day of silence.

Prayer

God, forgive me for the times I've been present but passive. The times where I've watched trouble unfold and said nothing. When you ask, 'Where are you,' let me answer honestly instead of hiding. Here I am Lord with all my flaws and failures. Give me courage today to speak instead of stay silent. Amen.

DAY 7

The First Promise

Genesis 3:15, 21 (ESV)

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel... And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skin and clothed them."

The same conversation where everything falls apart is also the conversation where God makes His first promise to fix it. Before Adam and Eve leave the garden and the ground is cursed, God speaks a word of hope into the wreckage. There is ONE who is coming who will crush what just crushed you.

A few verses later, comes one of the most overlooked pictures in the whole Bible. It almost becomes a footnote to the story, but it's vitally important. Adam and Eve had already tried to cover their own shame with fig leaves. Fig leaves represented their own effort to fix what they broke. Because of their sin, their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked and needed covering. It didn't work. We do the same thing. We try to cover up our own brokenness and sin through our own efforts instead of bringing it to God and asking for forgiveness. We try to fix relationships or a marriage in our own wisdom instead of repenting for our part and asking God to give us His wisdom in the situation.

God does something they couldn't do for themselves. He kills an animal and He clothes Adam and Eve with animal skins. With His own hands, God made a covering that cost the life of an animal. That's the gospel showing up on page three of the Bible. Every home, including yours, has a page-three moment. This is the point where something breaks, where shame shows up, and where our own effort to cover it isn't enough. This is the moment we turn to God for help. The gospel of Jesus Christ is NOT "try harder to fix what you broke." The gospel is that God provides, at enormous cost to Himself, what we cannot provide for ourselves. Jesus came and died to fix what we broke. When we turn to Him, He rushes in to help us fix it.

If this week has shown you anything, we hope it showed you that your identity, work, obedience, marriage, failures are part of Adam and Eve's garden story. God give all these things back to us redeemed and restored as only He can do. We don't end this week with a to-do list of things to fix about yourself, but with the same promise Adam and Eve got: **God has already spoken hope into our mess.** Our home doesn't rest on our daily performance. It rests on His provision to give us everything we need in life. We need to turn to Him first and trust Him.

Reflection

- Where have you been trying to cover your own shame or failure with your own effort, like fig leaves, instead of receiving what God has already provided?
- What would change in your home this week if you truly believed the promise of restoration from God is already spoken, not something you have to earn?
- Looking back over this week, what's the one thing God has been breathing into you that you need to keep carrying forward?

Action

Write down, in one sentence, the “fig leaf” you’ve been using to cover something in your life instead of bringing it to God. The thing we think we’ve got handled. Then bring that exact thing to him in prayer today and let it be covered His way instead of yours.

Prayer

Father, thank you that even in the wreckage, you spoke a promise before you spoke a consequence. Thank you that you clothe what I could never cover myself. As I close this week, let my home rest not on what I can fix, but on what you have already provided. In Jesus' name, amen.