

## Needing a Friend: Wow! Who's She?

by Annette Gulick 10/1/2001

### Lesson Three

**Lesson Objective:** That students realize how man and woman were made by God to complement each other.

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 2:18-25

**Bible Truth:** It was not good for man to be alone, so God created woman.

#### **Before You Begin:**

- ◆ some sort of music
- ◆ a few sheets of blank paper and pencils
- ◆ paper
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ glue
- ◆ crayons & markers
- ◆ stickers
- ◆ ribbon or other supplies for making awards

#### **Opening:**

Birdie on a perch. Have music ready ahead of time. Divide the group in half, optimally into guys and girls, and then have each person get a partner from the other group. The girls, the "birdies," form one circle and the guys, the "perches," form a larger circle around the girl's circle. When you begin playing the music the inner circle should walk clock-wise and the outer circle counter-clockwise. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find their partner and the birdies need to sit on their perches (to do this the "perches" kneel on one knee and the "birdie" sits on their other knee.) The last pair to get together is out. The object is to be the last pair in the game. Gauge your playing time according to how much time you have for the meeting, but about 5 to 10 minutes is good. Note: the game is more fun if you make them go faster and faster until students are running in their circles. To make the game shorter, make the last two or three pairs go out each time.

### Interactive Learning

Ask all of the girls to sit in a circle while all of the guys sit in another circle and give each group a piece of paper and a pencil. Tell them they have four minutes

to write down everything they like about the opposite sex. This will probably include everything from the way they look, to character attributes, but explain that no negative comments or jokes are acceptable.

After the time is up, have the students form one large circle with a chalkboard where everyone can see it. Draw a line down the middle of the board and write "male" as the heading for one side and "female" for the other. Have the students call out items from their lists, alternating between males and females, and write their comments on the board under the proper heading. Again guide the discussion in a positive direction and do not write down any negative comments. Then discuss:

- *How are males and females similar? (Both are people, of equal worth, both created in the image of God.)*
- *How are they different? (Physically, etc.)*
- *How do the qualities you have listed complement each other? (For example: men are generally stronger so they can lift heavy things so a lady doesn't have to.)*
- *Why do you think God chose to make mankind both male and female? (The most obvious answer is "to be able to reproduce" which is of course an aspect, but remind the students that there are species that procreate without a partner but God chose not to make us that way, so encourage them to come up with other answers.)*

## Bible Application

*This week we continue our study of Adam and Eve by looking at why God created Eve. I'm sure almost everyone here knows the story of how Eve was created. Would someone be willing to tell us all what happened? (Allow a student to describe how God made her from Adam's rib and then thank them for their help.)*

*Eve wasn't created from Adam's head to rule over him, or from his feet, indicating an inferior position. She was created from his rib, near his heart the symbol of love and intimacy. Men and women are equal in their worth in God's eyes, but they have distinct functions and personalities. The woman is the "suitable helper" for the man (Gn 2:18) while he is to protect and care for her. Part of the image of God (that we talked about two weeks ago) is expressed uniquely in the woman and part in the man; together in harmony they fully express his image (1:27.) Let's return to that passage we studied two weeks ago and see what these verses teach us about the relationship between men and women.*

Have a student to read Genesis 1: 27-30 out loud. Then ask:

- ***What do we learn about males and females from v. 27? (Both men and women are created in the image of God.)***
- ***From v.28? (Both males and females are given the responsibility to fill the world and to rule over it.)***

***So we see that what men and women have in common is their essence, their nature. They equally bear the image of God and so have equal dignity and value in God's eyes.***

**Read about the creation of Eve in Genesis 2:18-25 by having one or several students read the verses. Then ask the following questions:**

- ***Adam had a close relationship with God and he was accompanied by all of the animals, so why did God decide to make Eve? (Because Adam needed to have a relationship with another person.)***
- ***What comes to your mind when you hear the words "suitable helper"?***

***Usually we think of a "helper" as someone who is lower than we are and whose job is to serve us. But when we are studying the Bible, instead of assuming that we understand what a word or idea means, it is very important study what God intends to communicate by that word or idea. We do this by studying this word or idea in other places in the Bible.***

- ***Read Psalm 54:4 and Hebrews 13:6. Who is the "helper" in these verses? (God) In what specific ways is God our "helper"?***
- ***How does thinking of God as a "helper" change your idea of what a "helper" is?***
- ***With this biblical idea of helping in mind, what are some ways that men need "help" from women? What are some ways women need "help" from men?***

## Commitment

***God gave mankind a wonderful gift when he created us as males and females. God knows that we need to have relationships with other humans. We need the love and intimacy of these relationships. He made us to be need each other in many ways. Other people have skills and talents that help us and we have abilities and strengths that they need. God wants our lives to be enriched through our relationships with others, but very often sin and pride get in the way. Let's spend a few minutes asking God to help us in our relationships with the people he has put into our lives.***

**[This prayer can be lead in various ways. The leader can say the opening phrases and the students can silently complete the thought or they can pray out**

**loud. Or you can write these phrases on paper and give the students time to fill them out silently.]**

***Heavenly Father, thank you so much for all of the good gifts you fill our lives with. I especially thank you for the people who help me, like...***

***Lord, I know that I often do things that mess up my relationships. Please forgive me specifically for...***

***And please help me to become more like you in the area of...***

***I want to learn how to value and love the people that you put around me, especially those of the opposite sex, the way you value and love them. Please help me because I can't do it on my own. In Jesus name, Amen***

## Closing

**Divide the class in half (mixed, guys and girls) and pass out supplies to make awards (paper, scissors, glue, crayons, markers, stickers, ribbon.) Explain that the groups will be making awards for each individual in the other group. The awards should focus on specific positive qualities, like "Most Cheerful," "fun to be around," or "Servant's heart." After the groups finish, form one big circle and have students present the awards one at a time, explaining the reason for the award.**