



SHARING LIFE

- Why do you want to get to know God better? What have you already experienced with God?
- What are your expectations? What do you hope to get out of this and the next evening?
- ▶ Pray together, that you may get to know new aspects of God and that your friendship with God would be strengthened and become deeper.



BIBLE STUDY - GENESIS 2:4B-25

- Read the text quietly
- Read the text out loud
- Retell the text (from memory – closed Bibles)
- Contributions from the group to complement

General questions:

- Is there anything that struck you in this text?
- What do you like about it?
- Is there anything in it that bothers you?
- ▶ What does it say about God?
- ▶ What does it say about humans?

Specific questions (see commentary)

- Why did God create animals?
- Why did God make men and women, not just sexless humans?
- Why does the tree of the knowledge of good and evil exist?
- ▶ What does it tell us about God?
- ▶ What does it tell us about people?



Sharing personal issues should not take up more than 1/3 of the evening.

Split groups of more than seven.

Applying the text

- If what we've read is true, how will it change:
 - » my image of God?
 - » my behavior towards people, animals, nature?
 - » my way of life?



CHALLENGES

- How can I gain a deeper understanding of today's insights? (I will ...)
 - » Ex. 1: I will make myself more aware of the beauty of God's creation by taking photos of things that I find especially beautiful and showing them to you next time.
 - » Ex. 2: I will illustrate the creation story and show it next time.
 - » I will...
- Whom do I want to tell about my experiences with God in the course of the next week and invite them to start a friendship with God?



COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT:

Genesis 2:4b-25

The heavens, the earth, humans, animals and plants did not come into being by chance, they were created by God. Humans have had an important role since the beginning. The animals were created so humans wouldn't be alone and the sexes (male and female) were created to make an extremely intimate form of union possible. The trust between the two was so great that they were in no way ashamed of their nakedness and didn't need to hide or protect themselves behind clothes.

Strikingly, humans were given the option of disobeying God by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But God warned them that the punishment for doing so would be death. The existence of that tree clearly shows us that humans aren't completely at the mercy of God's will. Quite the opposite, humankind had the freedom of choice. They were given the freedom of choice to accept or reject God's love.



YOUR NOTES
