THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS

# Family Worship Guide – Week 19

## READ

This week we are studying the topic of biblical manhood—what is God's design for men? In order to do this, we need to start at the beginning. We need to see what God created men to be, what went wrong in the Fall, and what God has done to make things right in Christ.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3, focusing on Genesis 1:26-28. In these verses we see God's original plan for people. God created all human beings, male and female, in His image. This means that as human beings, we are meant to reflect the glory of God. More than that, we are created to represent God. God placed people on the earth to rule over the earth as kings and queens on the earth. God is the Ultimate King, but he has given us the authority to rule over this planet under His authority.

God's first command was, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over…every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28) Here we see the purpose for the human family. The family exists to advance the Kingdom of God. That is why your family exists – to advance the dominion (rule and reign) of God throughout the earth.

Read Genesis 2:4-25. This passage helps us look at God's plan for human beings from another angle. In Genesis 1:26-28, we saw that both men and women are created in God's image and are equal in God's sight. In Genesis 2, we see that although they are equal, they have different roles and responsibilities.

Notice that God creates Adam, or "the man," in Genesis 2:7 and then gives him a command in Genesis 2:15-17. God tells Adam to "work" the garden and to "keep" it. God then tells Adam not to eat from the tree in the midst of the garden. The garden is a kind of sanctuary or temple where God's presence dwells. God commands Adam to take care of it and not to let sin enter into the sanctuary.

It is extremely important to notice that God commanded all of this before He ever created the woman. These things are Adam's responsibility. Therefore, men, it is your responsibility to ensure that your family is fulfilling God's purposes and it is your responsibility to protect your family from sin.

But Adam realized he couldn't fulfill this mission on his own. He needed a helper, so God made the woman to be "a helper fit for him." (2:18) The word "helper" does not belittle the woman in any way. In fact, this same word is often used to refer to God as a helper in the Old Testament.

God gave the man and woman great intimacy and happiness with each other in the garden (2:24-25). But it did not last forever.

Read Genesis 3. Here we see the invasion of sin and death into the world, and one of the primary reasons sin was able to enter the world was because Adam failed in his responsibility as a biblical man. Notice that rather than leading his wife into godliness, Adam follows his wife into sin. Rather than exercising dominion over the serpent, he allows the serpent to tempt him and his wife. Simply put, he does not guard the purity of his family or the garden that God has entrusted to him, and his failure as a biblical man is why we are in the mess we are in today. Biblical manhood is serious business!

But even in Genesis 3 there is hope. One day, God will send a deliverer, the offspring of the woman, who will crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

Paul tells us in Romans 5:12-21 that Jesus Christ is the Second Adam. He has done what the First Adam failed to do. He has perfectly obeyed the will of God, and those of us who trust in Him are righteous before God. The Second Adam is building and protecting His temple, and He is advancing His kingdom to the ends of the earth. And we can all be a part of that.

**Questions:**

Have you trusted in the Second Adam, the only perfect Man, Jesus Christ, for your salvation?



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Men, how will you lovingly lead your family to advance the Kingdom of Christ? Where have you been negligent? Where do you need to repent? Take some time in focused prayer and then discuss these issues with your family. Confess your negligence to God and accept His forgiveness. Remember that your standing before Him is not based on the fact that you are a good man, but is based on Christ the perfect Man. Then ask Him for grace to be more like Christ.
Wives, how will you encourage your husband to lead your family? Remember there is only one perfect Husband (Ephesians 5:23ff.). How will you graciously encourage your husband and submit to his leadership as you are called to do?
Children, how will you actively encourage your father as he leads your family?
Young men, what has this study taught you about the kind of man God wants you to be?
Young ladies, what has this study taught you about the kind of man God wants you to marry?
All, your family exists to advance the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth, or as we often say it around here, to make disciples of all nations. How will you make this central to your family life?

**Bottom Line:** Men are called to lovingly lead their families to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

## PRAY

Mid-Term Missionaries are people serving in a different context for a period of 2 months to 2 years. This might mean someone going as a missionary for the summer, a semester or even a year or more. Many times after going on a short-term trip people sense God leading them to do more. Therefore at Brook Hills we have created an avenue for that. Brook Hills helps train, equip and send out Brook Hills' members in a Mid-Term capacity. This year we have 24 individuals who will be going out between May and August to many different places around the world. Places like West Africa, Malaysia, India, Central Asia, Indonesia, East Asia, Botswana, the Middle East and Ecuador. Those that are going represent a diverse group. They are college students, a librarian, nurses, seminary students, 2 married couples, singles and high school graduates. Most are working in unreached areas and will be sharing the gospel and making disciples with partners on the ground with long-term development and church planting purposes. We are excited to send these members out and commit to pray for them as they go.

## SING

'Be it Far From Me to Boast' is a song based on the book of *Galatians*, in which Paul argues for justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ. As we think about Biblical manhood and womanhood this week, we express through this song that our desire for holy living flows only from the gospel taking root in our hearts. It is important not to boast in what our "own hands have wrought," while at the same time not "parade our liberty" from the law. This song gives us an opportunity to celebrate our freedom in Christ as well as remember how this free grace compels us to be men and women of good works.

## MEMORIZE

1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

**Preschool**

- Before you begin grab one of your preschooler's puzzles. A small floor puzzle with big pieces would be best.
- Read Genesis 1 focusing on Genesis 1:26-28 with your preschooler.
- Now each family member needs to get a piece of the puzzle. Let everyone look at his or her individual piece. Then, as you assemble the puzzle, talk about how with just our one piece of puzzle we can't see what the whole puzzle will look like when put together. We can only see bits and pieces of what the picture might be with our piece but as each of us begins to assemble the puzzle we see the bigger picture. This puzzle is like God's creation and His plan for each of our lives.
- Tell your preschooler: By God's perfect design the first family began when He created the first man, Adam, and the first

woman, Eve. They became the very first Dad and Mom in God's creation.

- God's perfect plan for a family is for a child to have moms and dads who take care of their children. Parents are supposed to teach children how to love God and live a life that pleases Him. God knows every need we have and cares for us.
- God has created each man, woman, boy and girl to have a relationship with Him. He desires to be our Father. We are all an important piece of God's creation.
- Questions: What did God create in the Bible passage we read today? God made man. That means God created all people: moms, dads, children and families. God made you and God made me. He tells us, as your Mom and Dad, that we are to teach you all about Him and His love for us. He wants us, your parents, to teach you about Him and for us to teach you how to obey His plan.
- Conclude by rereading Genesis 1:26-28, praying with your child, and thanking God for His perfect plan for creation.

**Children**

- Read Genesis 1-3. Depending on the age of your child(ren), you may want to use a children's Bible.
- Show your child a picture of a male lion. Ask him/her what they know about a lion (it growls, is big, lives in Africa, etc). Tell your child that by learning a little about lions, we can also learn about God's plan for a family.
- Ask your child if they know that lions live in a family? A lion family is called a pride. God has made the male (or dad) lion to have a special role in his family. Ask, "What do you think might be the main job of the male (or dad) lion? Actually, the daddy lion's job is to protect the family from other male lions. Other lions want to come in and take over his family and be the new leader. And when this happens, the new guy will sometimes even kill the male cubs. So it's very important that the daddy lion stays near the family to watch and protect them.
- Just as God has a plan for the lion and his family, God has a very special plan for your family. Who do you think the leader of a family should be, the mom or the dad? Why?
- God has chosen for the man to be the leader of the family. He should protect his family just like the lion. From what kind of things does a dad protect his family?
- Remember the lions? Other lions want to take control of the lion family, right? Well, the Bible (in I Peter 5:8) describes Satan as a "roaring lion". Satan wants to control your family and all other families so they will not follow God. Satan can only do this by tempting you or other members of your family to follow his ways and not God's ways. That's one reason a dad is so important to a family. The dad leads the family to follow God and the Bible, and this helps protect them from sin.
- Did Adam protect Eve, his wife, from the serpent in the garden? Did he try to stop Eve so she would not sin? No, we read that Adam did not try to keep Eve from eating the forbidden fruit. Instead, Adam joined Eve in her sin. So he was not doing the job God had given him.
- Lastly, a dad is required by God to lead his family to learn and follow God's Word, which will help the family join God in His plan for His kingdom. How can you help your family obey God's plan by following your dad? You can trust your dad's rules and obey them. You can also pray for your dad.
- Take time to pray for your dad to make good choices as he follows Christ and leads your family.

**Students**

- First, we realize that everyone does not have a mom and dad present in the home. Though this is the Biblical picture God intended, we want to be thoughtful of those not in the ideal situation as we approach these next few weeks. The following ideas will include suggestions for those who may find themselves in the position of being the only parent in the home. After reading through the general guide individually and as a couple (if possible), the following may help all family members to see how all their roles within the family are critical in making disciples of all nations.
- As a family read Genesis 2:5-7 and Genesis 2:15-17 aloud. This may be a great opportunity to encourage younger siblings to be a constructive vocal part.
- Ask the questions:
    - What was the role God gave Adam in the creation process? Answers may vary from tending the garden to naming the animals.
    - What was Adam supposed to encourage in the garden through his work? The goal is to point to the emphasis on Adam's responsibility to encourage the growth of what God had created; that Adam was encouraging the growth of God's kingdom.
    - What was Adam supposed to keep out of the garden? Answers may vary from "weeds" to "serpents". After letting students answer, ask them, "What would Adam be letting into the garden by eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge?" We are leading toward the point made in the general guide – Adam was to protect the garden and his family from sin entering the picture.



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- Activity:
  - Before the lesson begins construct a simple obstacle course. On one end of the course place an item that must be carried to the other side (ex: an egg on a spoon). At the end of the course place a container for the item to be deposited in. It will be important to keep the path of the course a secret from your students. One idea is to have the course go from one side of the exterior of the house to the other.
  - After going through the first section of the lesson together, ask one of your students to volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer and tell them they are to carry the egg in the spoon from one end of this obstacle course to the other without losing it, or harming it. Their father (or head of household) will give them verbal instructions on how to navigate the course.
  - Once the student understands the objective, quietly instruct the others in the family to shout out incorrect directions to their blindfolded loved one. The father (or head of household) should keep silent. The student will then try to find his or her way through the course. After a few minutes, stop and allow everyone to express what they saw, or did not see, and how it made them feel.
  - Now, allow the student to make their way through the course a second time. You might want to make some quick adjustments to it before they begin. This time allow the father (or head of household) to be the loudest voice heard. The father should use loving encouragement as the student makes their way to the end. He should stand at the end of the course calling the student to himself. After completing the course, ask the blindfolded student to share how it made him or her feel having their father lead, encourage, and cheer them on.
- Questions to ask at the end by the Father (or head of household):
  - How could I better encourage you to impact your world for the Kingdom? Is there anything we do or do not do as a family that you think hinders your efforts? Dads – be ready for honest answers.
  - What is one specific thing you think God has been speaking into your heart to do in order to grow His Kingdom around you? What is one thing He wants you to do to better influence your peers and friends? (You want them not just to identify areas of growth in the family, but in themselves as well.
- What's Next:
  - Help your family members develop a plan to accomplish their "one thing."
  - Pray for them. A day or two after your activity slip a note onto their dresser to let them know you have been praying for them in that specific area.
  - Ask them! At the end of a week ask them how they are doing in their efforts. Remember, our silence is one of the biggest tools the enemy can use in the lives of our children.

## Prayer

## Week 19

**Lives/Church**

The Bible shows us God created men and women equal, yet different. Both men and women bear the image of God, yet God has ordained they reflect it by carrying out distinct roles in the home and in the church. This week, we focus on God's mandate to men to lead, provide for, and protect their wives and families. This mandate is grounded in creation (Gen. 1-3) and is intended to reflect the eternal mystery of Christ's love for His church (Eph. 5:22-33). Men, spend time confessing the ways you have fallen short in these areas, but do not despair over your failures. Remember only God is the perfect Father, only Christ is the perfect Husband, and He has loved His church with a perfect love that pays for your sins and failures. Pray earnestly that He would give you grace to reflect the gospel in the way you love your wife and your children. Wives, pray God would give your husband grace to reflect the glory of Christ in this way. Let us all pray that God fills this faith family with men who reflect the character of the perfect Man, Jesus Christ.

**Local**

**Local Church:** Briarwood Presbyterian - Harry Reeder

**Focus:** The Jimmie Hale Mission - founded in 1944 to minister to homeless men in need. The Men's Complex houses the men's shelter, a recovery program, men's clothing distribution and nightly chapel programs.

**Monday:** Pray that God would lead the staff, volunteers and the board of directors at Jimmie Hale to be submissive and sensitive to His leading.

**Tuesday:** Pray that the men at the Mission will come to know the love of Christ, understand the gospel, and be open to God's work in their lives.

**Wednesday:** Pray that the men at the Mission struggling with various addictions would seek and find their identity only in Christ.

**Thursday:** Pray for God to send Brook Hills' members to volunteer at the Mission through mentoring, leading Bible study, and/or serving food.

**Friday:** Pray for the men as they leave the Mission that they would be free from additions, gain education and/or employment, and attempt to heal broken relationships they might have in their life.

**Saturday:** Pray that the Mission would be used by God as a beacon of hope and a source of strength for those men hurting and struggling in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Global**

**Short Term Teams:** Dominican Republic, India and the Middle East

**Partner:** This week we are praying for the Brook Hills Mid-Term Missionaries being sent this summer to serve around the world.

**Monday:** Pray for opportunities to share the gospel for Patric, Ramsey and Michelle as they teach in local schools and universities in Central Asia. Pray that God would use them to build fruitful relationships there.

**Tuesday:** Pray for Amber as she invests her life and studies Spanish at a local university in Ecuador. Pray for opportunities to share Christ with local women she builds relationships with.

**Wednesday:** Pray for Tyler and Chelsea, a young married couple serving college students through campus ministry in East Asia. Pray for their marriage to be a platform to share and show the Word and for many to know Christ.

**Thursday:** Pray for Tyler, Max, Jessica and Shara as they share the gospel with Muslims in India through local partners. Pray for meaningful relationships and open hearts.

**Friday:** Pray for Tyler, Billy, Ramzi and Pete as they join local missionaries serving among unreached peoples in Southeast Asia. Pray for team unity and for many to know Christ.

**Saturday:** Pray for Craig, Lynne, Rachel, Patrick, Wesley, Lauren, Rebecca, Brett and Katelyn as they live and serve in Sub-Sahara Africa. Pray for God to sustain them as they live in harsh conditions and for people to know Christ.

## Scripture Memory

"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7

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### Be It Far From Me To Boast

by Josh Poore & Jim Watkins

Be it far from me to boast
Save in Your work on the cross
I have come to know your worth
So I count everything else as loss

By Your death I have life
Now with Christ I have been crucified
By the cross I am free
Now Your grace is everything I need

Be it far from me to boast
In what my own hands have wrought
When my deeds shall never pay
For what Your redeeming love has bought

As You hung on the tree
Humbly You became the curse for me
All my debts by Your blood
Have been paid so I have peace with God

Halelujah halelujah
You are all my righteousness
Any all my soul sings halelujah
By Your mercy I'm forever blessed

Be it far from me to live
In depravity and pride
When Your holiness whas marred
For the ransom of my very life

Though from guilt I am free
May I not parade my liberty
By Your grace I will cling
To You my Christ my life my everything

When this body lays to rest
And in death I close my eyes
You will bear me safely through
As my boast will be the cross of Christ

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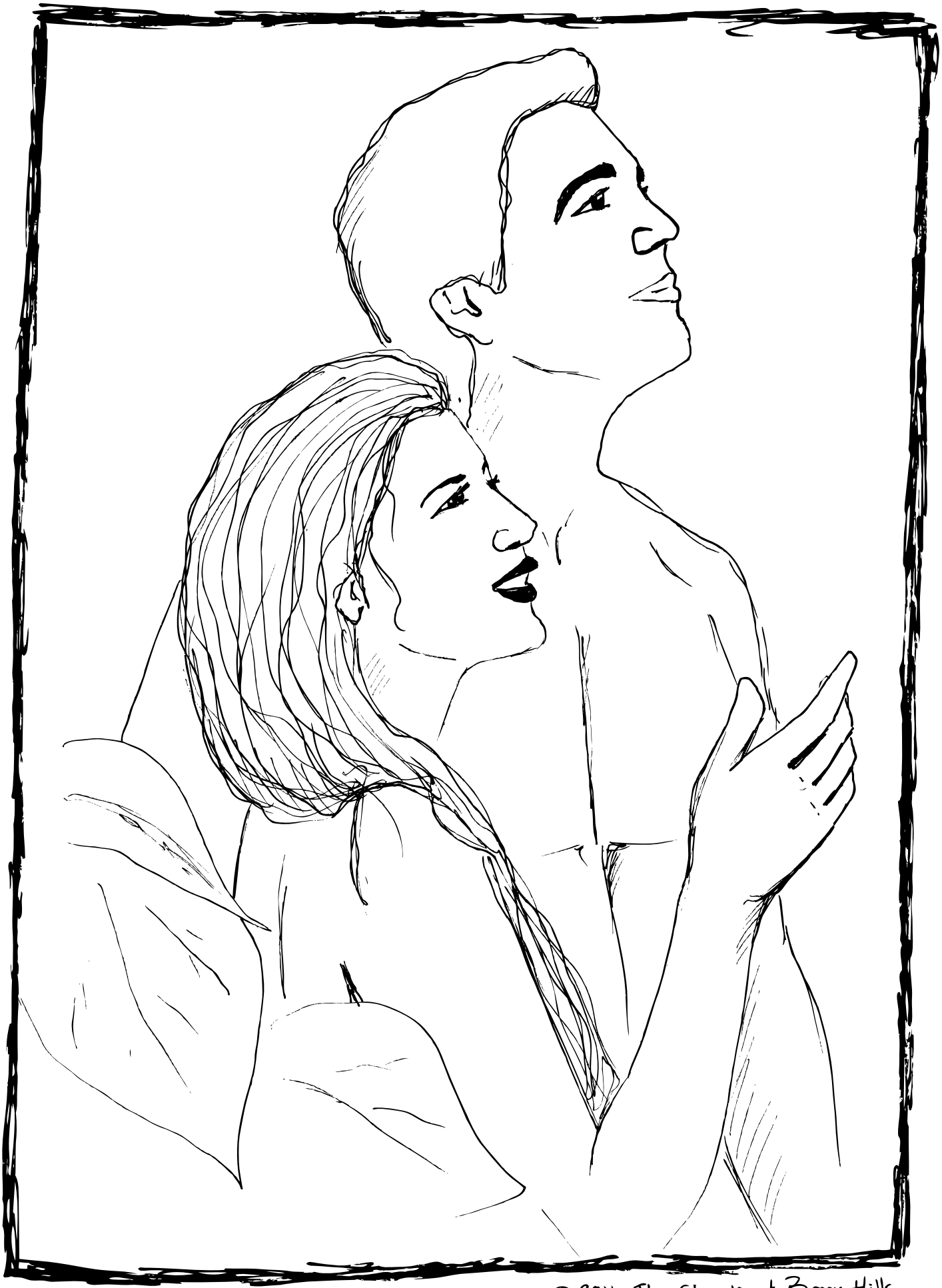

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