

GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR WORK, PT. 1

GENESIS 2:5-15

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - NOVEMBER 2, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:5-15 (ESV)

Read Genesis 2:5-15. The full passage is essential for today's discussion.

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mike discussed four ways to think about God's design for work

1. Work is a **command**.
 - Work is a core part of what it means to be human.
 - Work isn't just what you get paid to do; it is using your skills to serve others and care for creation.
2. Work is an **invitation** from God.
 - Work is an invitation to collaborate and commune with God.
3. Work is **ministry**.
 - God is working through your work.
4. Work is a **witness** to your relationship with God.
 - Your work is a witness to the kingdom of God.
 - Good work is designed to be a preview of the world to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Genesis 2:5-15 as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
2. What do you learn about God's design for work?
 - What does Genesis 2:5-6 say about the condition of God's creation?
 - What work did God perform in Genesis 2:7-9?
 - Where did God place the man? Genesis 2:8, 2:15
 - How is this place described in the passage? Genesis 2:10-14
 - What did God design man to do? Genesis 2:8, 2:15
 - Describe the tasks God assigned to him? Genesis 2:15
3. How would you summarize Genesis 2:5-15?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What does the word "work" mean? Genesis 4:2; Exodus 31:1-6; Numbers 3:7-8; 18:7
2. What is the connection between God and his work in creation, and his design of mankind for work as His image bearers? Genesis 1:26-28, 2:2, 2:5, and 2:8
 - What does the word "Eden" mean? Why is Eden described that way? Genesis 2:10-14
 - What does God mean by "subdue" and exercise dominion over creation? Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:5
 - How does this inform our understanding of the purpose of our work?
3. How does the bible reveal God's design and desire for work? Acts 14:16; James 1:17
 - How does scripture call us to view the way we work? Titus 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
 - How did we fall away from this understanding of work, separating work into "sacred" and "secular", between

“clergy” and laity?

- What are the implications of doing so?
4. What are some reasons God commands us to work? Proverbs 18:9; 2 Ephesians 4:8, Colossians 3:23; and Thessalonians 3:10-12;
- For believers in Jesus, if everything on earth is passing away and we are going to heaven, does our work on earth even matter? Isaiah 51:17; 1 Corinthians 3:12-14; and Revelation 21:1-4

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Work is a command.
 - How are you using your gifts and skills in your work (whether at home, in the workplace, or in ministry)?
 - In what ways are you struggling to view your work as a gift from Him and a way to serve Him?
 - Are there any ways you need to change how you think about or do your work?
 - Considering that work was originally a part of God’s good design, how can you grow in enjoying work as a gift from God and a way to serve Him, even when it is difficult?
2. Work is an invitation from God.
 - How is God working through your everyday work?
 - How is God inviting you to collaborate with him through your work?
 - What struggles or challenges are you facing with your work right now?
 - What are some practical ways that your Church Group can support you?
 - How specifically can your Church Group pray for you?
3. Work is a witness to your relationship with God.
 - What does your approach to work reveal about your relationship with God?
 - What are some practical ways you can “work and keep” the “garden” God has placed you in, whether that’s your family, community, or workplace?
 - What would it look like if you were to view God as your “Ultimate Employer”?
 - What is your biggest takeaway as you process God’s design for work?