

GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR WORK, PT. 2

GENESIS 2:15

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - NOVEMBER 9, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. *Genesis*

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When you think about work, what positives and negatives come to mind?

SERMON RECAP

Work is using your skills to serve people and care for creation – God is working through your work.

Seven biblical values that should drive a Christian approach to work:

1. Work with **purpose** – It should be grounded in a general and specific sense of purpose.
2. Work with **integrity** – Be who you are when nobody and everybody is watching.
3. Work with **justice** – Use your power to do what's right and to ensure that all people are treated fairly.
4. Work with **excellence** – It's not just what you do, but how you do your work.
5. Work with **love** – Always be driven by a commitment to serve the best interest of others.
6. Work with a **healthy rhythm (rest)** – Stop to rest and enjoy life outside of work.
7. Work on **mission** – See your work as an opportunity to share the gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Genesis 2:15 aloud 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.
 - What words jump out at you in verse 15?
 - What verbs (action words) do you see in verse 15?
 - What does God do and what does humanity do in verse 15?
 - How would you summarize Genesis 2:15?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Genesis 2:15
 - What is the general purpose that God gives humanity in work?
 - What is the specific purpose that God gives humanity in work?
2. Read Proverbs 10:9 and 11:3
 - How does integrity make you secure in your work?
 - How does integrity guide your work?
3. Read Deuteronomy 24:14-15, Proverbs 11:1, and James 5:4
 - What does it mean to treat everyone fairly or justly like God does?
 - What does it mean to protect vulnerable or oppressed people?
4. Read Colossians 3:23-24
 - How can working 'heartily' translate into working 'excellently'?
 - How does excellent work make your heavenly reward sweeter?
5. Read Matthew 22:37-39



- What does it look like to love the Lord through your work?
 - What does it look like to love others through your work?
6. Read Genesis 2:2
- What does it mean to 'finish' work before you rest?
 - Why is rest and recreation critical following work?
7. Read Genesis 3:17-19
- Why does God curse the environment surrounding man's work?
 - Why does the physical, mental, or emotional toil of work drain humanity?

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

1. Purpose
 - What is the general and specific purpose of your work?
 - Fill in the blanks: God wants people to _____. My role contributes to that by _____.
2. Integrity
 - What would it be like to be known to have integrity like Daniel, Joseph, or Nehemiah?
 - How is your work 'known' in the workplace, the home, and other workplaces you frequent?
3. Justice
 - How does your life reflect justice to all whom you encounter?
 - Describe some ways that you support or protect vulnerable and oppressed people.
4. Excellence
 - How would others describe the quality of your work?
 - How might you inspire others to work excellently, as for the Lord?
5. Love
 - How would others see your love for the Lord through your work?
 - How would others see your love for them through your work?
6. Rest (Healthy Rhythm)
 - How do you set up work targets so you can enable periods of rest?
 - How does healthy rest contribute to your balance between work and life?
7. Mission
 - What can you do or how can you work to bring regular, routine joy to your work?
 - How are you working on mission by bringing the gospel into your work?
8. Church Group
 - How can we incorporate these seven biblical values into our Church Group?
 - How is God working through our Church Group?
 - Are there any changes we need to make to help our Church Group to work better?