

These questions are for the February 1, 2026, message, “Made for Work.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 2:4-17) out loud.

Passage Outline

1. The blessing of work (Gen 2:7, 15)
 - a. Work gives us purpose.
 - i. God made us in His image and shares His purposes with us.
 - ii. He made the world physical, and He made us physical, to subdue His world.
 - b. Work gives us mission.
 - i. When we work, we subdue our corner of the Garden by organizing and rearranging resources to help everyone flourish.
 - ii. He put Adam in the Garden “to work it and to keep it.”
 - c. Work makes us happy (Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 10:31).
 - i. Work is worship.
 - ii. Work encompasses all effort to serve (not just for profit employment).
2. The limits of work (Gen 2:16, 17).
 - a. Because we work “between two Gardens” (between Eden and the New Jerusalem) . . .
 - i. All of our work and the people we work with are groaning, imperfect.
 - ii. Yet those God has redeemed bless the world.
 - b. Extremes.
 - i. Some avoid work, thinking it is evil.
 - ii. Some serve work as an idol, thinking it can save them.
 - c. Resting / Sabbath. God calls us to a weekly dedicated day or worship.
3. How work points us to Jesus Christ (Heb 4:11-13; John 14:27).
 - a. Trust the work of Jesus Christ: He came as a man, kept the law, died in our place.
 - b. Enter the peace (rest) of Jesus Christ: He rose again and has left us “His peace.”

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How has NOT-FOR-PROFIT work been purposeful in your life? (For instance, raising children and family life, overseeing a household, serving at church, praying and loving our neighbors.)
2. Based on #1, above: How has a specific job (for profit) been or become an act of worship for you? How can you serve customers, repeat tasks, till ground or manage people as an act of worshiping God? How can you make worship a conscious goal of your work?
3. Based on #2, above: Talk about the frustrations you have as you work “between the Gardens.” In what way is your work “groaning” (Romans 8:19)? In what ways do your workmates “groan”? In what ways do you groan? How can our expectations about this groaning give us patience, understanding and love for our work and others?
4. Based on #3, above: Jesus is the ultimate worker, the only One whose work redeems and restores us to God. How does His perfect work inspire your obedience? How does His perfect rest cause you to rest now, but also long for heaven?