



Sermon Guide: Created to Cultivate - 09/20/26

Text(s): Genesis 1&2

Big Idea: We were created to reflect our working God by cultivating what he has entrusted to us

Summary of the Sermon - God is a working God who created, sustains, and continues to accomplish his purposes in the world, and he created humanity in his image with meaningful work to do. Work is not a necessary evil or merely a means of survival; it was part of God's good design before sin entered the world, as he calls us to cultivate what he has entrusted to us. When we learn to see work this way, even the ordinary work of our lives takes on dignity and purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Genesis 1:1–2:3.** What do you notice about the different kinds of work God does in creation? What does God's declaration that his creation is “good” and “very good” teach us about his work?
2. **Read Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17; Psalm 104:19-27; Nehemiah 9:6.** How do these passages expand our understanding of God's work beyond the original act of creation? Where do you see evidence of God's sustaining work in your everyday life?
3. **Read John 4:34; 5:17; 9:4; 17:4.** What can we learn from Jesus about receiving work from the Father and faithfully accomplishing it?
4. **Read Genesis 1:26–28.** What connection do you see between humanity being created in God's image and the responsibilities God immediately gives to humanity?
5. Why is it significant that God gave Adam work to do before sin entered the world (Genesis 2:15)? How does this challenge the idea that work is simply a necessary evil or something we have to endure?
6. The sermon distinguished between work being part of the curse and sin bringing a curse upon our work. Why is that distinction important? How has the fall affected your own experience of work?
7. We defined cultivating as taking what God has entrusted to us and faithfully developing it. What has God entrusted to you to cultivate in your present season of life?

8. How does defining work more broadly than paid employment change the way you think about parenting, studying, maintaining a home, serving others, volunteering, retirement, or other ordinary responsibilities?
9. Think about work you regularly do that seems mundane, unnoticed, or insignificant. How might understanding yourself as an image-bearer of a working God change the way you view that work?