

We spend a huge part of our lives working — in our jobs, at home, studying, raising families, serving others, and doing the everyday tasks that often feel mundane.



THE PATTERN FOR
WORK
GENESIS 1

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

CARE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Created to work — Genesis 1:28 gives humanity the task to "be fruitful... fill the earth and subdue it... rule over" it, before the Fall ever happens. What does it mean that work is part of God's good design from the beginning, not a curse or necessary evil?
2. Image-bearing — Genesis 1:26-27 grounds human work in being made in God's image. In what ways does your work (paid or unpaid) involve creating, cultivating, caring for, or developing something? How does this reflect God's image.
3. Responsibility and stewardship — God gives humanity responsibility in His world, not ownership of it. How does seeing yourself as a steward rather than an owner change your attitude toward your work, possessions, or achievements?
4. The Fall's effect — Genesis 3 shows work becoming frustrating, painful, and difficult. Where do you most feel this brokenness in your own work — physical exhaustion, meaninglessness, conflict, disappointment? How does naming it as a result of the Fall (rather than just "life") change how you respond to it?
5. Work as idol — Sin can distort our relationship with work into idolatry. What are the warning signs that work has become an idol rather than a calling, in your own life or someone you know?
6. Redemption now — Acts of "justice, beauty, creativity and stewardship can point others to Jesus." Can you think of an example — from your own work or someone else's — where ordinary work visibly pointed to something greater than itself?
7. Future hope — We look forward to the renewal of creation, when work and the world are "fully restored." How does this future hope change the way you view work that feels wasted, incomplete, or ultimately temporary right now?



THE GOSPEL AND
WORK
COLOSSIANS 3

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Scope of work — Paul says "whatever you do," refusing to separate sacred from secular activity. What tasks in your week do you treat as too mundane or unspiritual to matter to God? How would this text reframe them?
 2. Audience — Colossians 3:23 calls us to work "as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Who or what are you most often really working for — approval, success, recognition? How can you tell the difference in the moment?
 3. Wholeheartedness — The passage calls for work done "with all your heart." What's the difference between working hard to prove something and working hard because you're already secure in Christ?
 4. Misplaced masters — Recognition, success, and approval as "false masters" in our work. Which of these tends to have the strongest pull on you, and how does it show up practically (e.g. in how you react to criticism or praise)?
 5. Reward and inheritance — Verse 24 promises "you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." How does knowing that God sees and rewards your work change your motives.
 6. Worship — "All of life's work is worship to Christ." What would change about your attitude toward a specific frustrating or repetitive task this week if you approached it as worship rather than obligation?
- Grace — How do you guard against turning "working for the Lord" into a new form of works-based earning God's favour?