

NOTES



PRAYER

“Father, we gather in Your presence with open hearts, inviting Your Holy Spirit to speak to us about Your purpose for our lives, especially in the work You’ve called us to do. We pray that You would reveal how we can glorify You in our daily work and bring the influence of Christ into our workplaces, schools, and homes. Shape our hearts to see work as an expression of worship and deepen our understanding of Your design for it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“What was the first job you ever had, or what is a job you’ve always dreamed of having?”

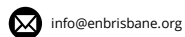


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WORD

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

[Genesis 1:26-31](#)

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

[Genesis 2:15](#)

The account of creation in Genesis shows us a unique design, where humanity is crafted with purpose, woven into the fabric of the world, and invited to collaborate in God's work. In Genesis 1:26, we see the profound idea that we are made in God's image and likeness, a truth that grants us not only inherent worth but also an invitation to "have dominion" over creation. In his book *Every Good Endeavor*, Tim Keller reflects on this verse, suggesting that the calling to "have dominion" doesn't imply a detached rule but rather a co-labouring with God, where our efforts are directed toward nurturing and cultivating His creation, not for self-gain, but for His glory and the good of others.

This divine partnership becomes clearer in Genesis 2:15, where God places Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it." Keller reminds us that "work is as much a basic human need as food, beauty, rest, friendship, prayer, and sexuality; it is not simply medicine but food for our soul." From the very beginning, work is infused with meaning and is portrayed as integral to God's purposes for humanity. This calling to "work and keep" is not meant to be a burden but a reflection of God's own character as Creator and Sustainer.

In reflecting on this, we recognise that work is not simply something we must do, but something we were designed to do. Keller observes that work "is so foundational to our makeup that it is one of the few things we can take in significant doses without harm." As we engage in our vocations, whether in an office, school, or home, we participate in God's ongoing creation. This means that every act of work,

when done with integrity and dedication, can be a form of worship, a way to honour God by mirroring His creativity, care, and attention to detail.

Moreover, Keller's reflection on Genesis reminds us that work is an avenue for loving others. Just as Jesus taught us to love our neighbour, the work we do can and should serve others, meeting their needs and contributing to human flourishing. Keller points out that "the way to serve God at work is to further social justice in the world, to be personally honest and evangelistically bold, to work with skill and integrity." In this sense, our work becomes an extension of our faith, a platform to embody and share the love of Christ in ways both small and great.

Finally, in light of all these insights, we see that work holds within it an opportunity for joy, a chance to reflect on God's goodness and creativity. When we view our tasks—mundane as they sometimes feel—as part of God's design, we realize that work is a divine invitation. Keller beautifully sums this up by reminding us that "without meaningful work we sense significant inner loss and emptiness. People who are cut off from work because of physical or other reasons quickly discover how much they need work to thrive emotionally, physically, and spiritually." Seeing work as a calling from God helps us to engage in it with joy, not only fulfilling our duties but also participating in His purposes for the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "How does seeing work as part of God's design challenge or change the way you think about your daily responsibilities?"
2. "Have you ever seen or experienced work as a form of worship? How might we begin to bring that perspective into our workplaces or schools?"
3. "What do you think it means to bring a Christ-like influence to the people around you through your work?"
4. "What are ways we can find joy in work, even when it feels difficult or mundane?"

"Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as the Lord of all creation and the giver of purpose in every part of life, including our work. Thank You for the privilege of participating in Your creative and redemptive work. We offer ourselves and our work as a living sacrifice, desiring to honor You and reflect Your goodness to those around us. Help us to work with integrity, joy, and a heart to serve others, bringing Christ-like influence wherever You have placed us. For anyone here who doesn't know You personally, may this be the day they come to trust in You and find true purpose in following Your ways. Strengthen us to lay down our lives for Your glory and for the good of others. In Your precious name, we pray, Amen."