

Created to Contribute
Core Group Discussion Guide
02-04-2018

Message Overview:

This Sunday marks the opening of a new series in which we will spend the month of February looking at how our faith intersects with our work. We often talk about faith affecting our eternal destiny, the way we worship, and our family relationships, but sometimes we fail to see that God is VERY interested in the way faith affects the thing we spend most of our waking hours doing, work. This Sunday we will explore what the Bible has to say about work and God's plans for our work. The goal is to lay down Bible-centered groundwork for the rest of the series. The big idea this message will carry is that God has made us to contribute to the flourishing of this earth.

Text:

- Genesis 1:1, 27, 28, 2:15, 3:17-19
- Colossians 3:23-24

Questions for Discussion:

1. The first three chapters in Genesis talk about God's design for the world and its fall into sin. One aspect of God's design for humans is their call to work. What do you think work looked like before it was corrupted by sin?
2. Read Genesis 3:17-19. This is the curse of our work, that it will become difficult. Do you think our work is difficult primarily because we are sinful or because God made the work its self more difficult?

Exercise: Ask for a volunteer to be interviewed about their work. (The questions aren't personal and the rest of the group can help think through the answers as well)

3. Do you think your job would exist before the fall? (for example: nurses probably wouldn't be needed before the fall)
4. What part of your job would be different if it wasn't for the fall?
5. What part of your job would you do in heaven if you could?

Additional Questions:

6. The Bible indicates that work is to be our contribution to the flourishing of his world, not simply a way to earn a paycheck. In what ways does that effect our perspective on work.
7. What question about your work do you hope to have answered in this series?