

— weekly —
**STUDY
GUIDE**

WORK MATTERS

WEEK 2 // THE DAY GOD CREATED WORK

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Introduction

Welcome to week two of the *Work Matters* study. Last week we learned that inviting Christ to be Lord of our lives means He has authority over everything, including our work. This week we seek to find the answer to this question: Where did the whole idea of work come from? As we begin, let's prepare our hearts to receive whatever God has to teach us through this week's lesson.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

Personal Study

Before we continue, let's define "work." Work is any task that achieves a stated purpose. A stay-at-home parent works hard to raise their child. A student works diligently to expand their understanding and skill set. Whatever tasks God has set before us are considered "work."

READ

Read Genesis chapters 1 and 2 and consider your responses to the questions below.

CONSIDER

- Does work feel more like a privilege or a burden to you? Why?

- In Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15 God gives us authority to co-rule the earth with Him. What responsibilities and repercussions does this provide us?

Personal Study Continued...

- Sometimes work can be exhilarating while other times its down-right excruciating. Have you ever wondered why? What insight does Genesis Chapter 3 (specifically verses 17-19) give us?

There is a common misconception that the only work that matters to God is the work that happens within the walls of the church.

- Based on what you read in Genesis, why is this statement untrue?

- Are there other verses in the Bible that debunk this myth? If you know some, list them below.

- Think about your current work; how can it be “done unto the Lord” in a way that brings Him glory and honor?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the work He has given you. If you find that difficult to do, ask God to change your attitude toward the tasks set before you. Allow Him to fill you and shape the way you approach each task this week.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Have each person in the group briefly describe the least fulfilling job they can imagine.

Last week, we learned about the coming Job Wars and financial crisis that threatens the families in our city. As we seek to position ourselves as a source of hope and light in our community, we were challenged to think of practical ways to help people in need.

DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to mind this week?

- What would happen if the church focused on helping people find jobs rather than meeting their financial needs in times of crisis?

READ

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15 together.

DISCUSS

- In what ways do our beliefs about the origins of work effect our attitudes toward it?

- The world was in a state of perfection before Adam and Eve sinned against God. Everything that existed at this point was "GOOD." Part of God's perfect plan was for mankind to work and care for His creation. If this is true, why do many people see work as a punishment or curse?

READ

Read Genesis 3:17-19 together.

DISCUSS

- Does this explain how work can be a life-giving experience one day, and the next day it sucks the life right out of us? If so, how?

PRAY

Close your time together in prayer by thanking God for your work. If anyone is lacking a job or is unhappy with their current work situation, ask God to lead them to a place of fulfillment and contentment with either a new job or a new attitude.