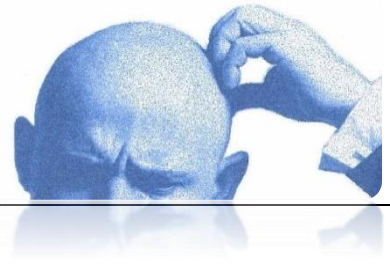


Vocation (work)

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series this fall will explore Genesis 1-11 (Origins). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories *BEFORE* you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- How do you understand the terms **WORK** and **VOCATION**? Are these the same or different from each other?
- Does God care about the work you do and how you do it? Why or why not?
- Read **Genesis 1:26-31**. What stands out to you in this text?
- Given that humans are God's divine representative (image) on earth, what does it mean that we are to rule over creation? What can it *not* mean?
- Some people have accused Christians of contributing to the current environmental crisis, in part because of biblical texts like this. How would you respond?
- The call to "rule" is further explained in **Genesis 2:15**. What does God ask the man to do? Is this a specific instruction for Adam or for all people?
- Consider **1 Peter 2:9**. What does it mean to be a priest? How does this align with our calling to work and to care for God's creation?
- N. T. Wright (theologian): "You are called, prayerfully, to discern where in your discipline the human project is showing signs of exile and humbly and boldly to act symbolically in ways that declare that the powers have been defeated, that the kingdom has come in Jesus the Messiah, that a new way of being human has been unveiled, and to be prepared to tell the story that explains what these symbols are all about."
- What do you think? What could this look like in your place of work?

In the coming week you are invited to re-read Genesis 3:1-24.

- What stood out to you in this story?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?