

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### ① Faith & Work

#### INTRODUCTION | The purpose of work : What do we work

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We will be launching into a series on “faith and work”. Questions concerning the meaning of our work and the nature of work itself will be the focus of this study. We will be looking at God’s wonderful design for work, the difficulties of work and the ways in which the gospel of Jesus Christ can affect work. From today’s scripture we will focus on 3 things. First, what is work and what is the wonderful design God has in mind in giving us work. Secondly, I want to focus on what a good and wonderful thing work is in its essence. Thirdly, even though work is a wonderful thing full of meaning, it isn’t everything. We need to understand the limits of work and ultimately look toward the rest from work.

#### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 2:1-15

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2.1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. 4 These are the generations

of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

#### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: What are you working for? What is the purpose of your work? Take some time to discuss
- 2: (4-14) God in creating this world and Eden specifically made man to work. What kind of work can you say humanity was to do?
- 3: (verse 15) What kind of work did God invite humanity to do? From this how can we understand work and labor?
- 4: Because our labors and work are often overbearing and often include problems and difficulties, it is easy to think that work itself is a hardship. But, how does scripture describe work? (ref Genesis 1:4;10;12;18;21;31)
- 5: (1-3) What did God do when he finished his work of creation? what kind of action is this and how should you look to orient your work life?
- 6: it is easy to be overwhelmed and to feel the pressure and anxiety exerted and produced by work. As we think about the essential biblical nature of work reflect and share your troubles and labors with one another. Pray for and with one another.

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### REFERENCES |

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#### **Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,31**

4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness....10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good....12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good...18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good...21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good....31 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.

### PRAYER |

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- Work and labor ante good things and it is a great blessing to be invited to work alongside of God. Find what is good in your work and praise God for it. Understand work and rest in s new light , praise God for his glory and continually come back to stand on the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Share and pray with one another concerning your work and struggles. If you have put too much time, too much focus and too much of your hope in work confess this God.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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1. Retreat (5/3-5/5 Karuizawa retreat center)
2. Obento Project (5/7)
3. Crossroads Bible Study (5/ 8)
4. Lunchtime meetings (Kudanshita 5/10, Marunouchi 5/11, Otemachi 5/12)
5. Baptism class (5/11)
6. Sunday worship (Pentecost and anniversary 5/15)
7. Crossroads bible study (5/15)