

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

In The Beginning
Week 3: Is Work Bad?
Genesis 2:1-20

September 22, 2024
Jeff Griffin

Join us in the time machine and let's go back to the beginning of everything. In the first chapters of Genesis, we are blessed with a description of the creation of the universe and the origination of humanity. This week, let's discuss how the ancient days will enable us to thrive in the present in light of the work we do.

Kicking It Off:

In honor of this week's message about work, what has been your most unusual job? What would you consider your favorite?

Discussion:

1. Jeff mentioned how 25 million Europeans came to America in order to get work in the early 1900s. Have you or a family member ever moved "far away" for a new job? Please share your experience. What type of work could ever lure you away from where you live now?

2. Jeff shared how God wants people to use their skills and energies on meaningful labor. What thoughts come to mind when you hear that work is a *gift* from God? What's your take on work being found in the garden of Eden, even before sin ever entered the world? Does that surprise you? (And why or why not?)

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15, NIV)

3. As a group, discuss how you could benefit from remembering God wants us to make the world a better place. What does that look like, specifically in each of these areas?

- Civilization
- Order
- Health
- Knowledge

4. What types of work and meaningful activities do you currently do beyond any paid work? If you were to remember Colossians 3:17 as you perform them, what might change?

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

5. Practically speaking, what is a strong work ethic? What challenges do you find when thinking about working hard ...? For yourself, for others, and for God?

Wrapping Up:

We can find great satisfaction when we embrace God's plans for us to enjoy our work, whether paid or unpaid. Pray that each member of your group might be fulfilled in whatever work God is calling you to do.