



LIFE FROM CHAOS: GENESIS

STUDY 2: LIFE'S MEANING

Genesis 2:4-25



Key Idea

In Genesis 2 Adam is created with a job to do. By looking at the picture of work, both here and through the rest of the bible we can learn a lot about our purpose and how to think about our current work!



Listen

This study is written to be used together with the sermon preached at Trinity Church which you can find on our church website.

www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/



Talk About

Having looked at Genesis 1 and seen the picture of the one who created the world, we now zoom into look at things a bit more closely. Particularly we're looking at why humans have been put on the world and what we're created to do. The short answer is we're put here to "work" and look after God's creation. Our minds might jump straight to 'employment' when we read that word, but really we're looking at how we spend our time. The way in which we look after God's world through the week. This can include caring for people, volunteering in big or small ways, looking after your little part of God's creation, learning about and training in how to look after God's creation....

1. Share with the group what "work" looks like for you at the moment. What's enjoyable about work? What's hard?

Reminder:

If you are at all familiar with the early chapters of Genesis, one thing you'll know is that this part of the bible can bring up lots of questions and debates. I (Matt) think it's sort of true that 'no question is a bad question', but it's also true that with many questions there's a danger of letting less important things distract us from more important things.

For this series I'm encouraging groups to keep a "park it" list. Don't be afraid to discuss questions as they come up, but it may be that you decided a question needs to be "parked" so that it doesn't distract from what's more important. You might get a chance to come back to these questions later, and you're welcome to feed your questions back to me too. I'll be trying to collect people's questions through the series and have a go at answering them at various points.

Explore

Read Genesis 2:4-7

2. Why is the man created in this passage? (Hint - what is lacking?)

3. How does the man receive life? What does this tell us about the relationship between us and God?

Read Genesis 2:8-17

4. What sort of picture do we get of the garden that God plants? (v8-14)

5. Adam is put into God's garden to work it - what do you think of his workplace? What sort of perks does his job have?

6. In terms of looking after this garden, what part does God play and what part does Adam play?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

7. Here Adam is given a co-worker. What picture do you get of Adam and Eve's relationship?

Read Genesis 3:23-24

In Genesis 3, the beauty of the picture of Genesis 2 quickly disappears and is replaced with things going wrong.

8. How does Adam's workplace change? What else has changed? (You also might like to read 3:16 and see how the fall affects Adam and Eve's relationship. And see 3:17-19 for more detail on what Adam's work is like now.)

9. Thinking about what we've looked at so far, what are your conclusions on what work is meant to be like? What are your conclusions on how it is in reality?

Read Revelation 22:1-4

10. What will work look like in the new creation? In what ways are things back to how they should be?

A Little Bit Extra

The Rivers

It's interesting that we're given the names of four rivers here isn't it? Like many things in Genesis there's been lots of "ink spilled" in thinking about these rivers. Two of the rivers are still easily locatable today, while two we aren't sure about. I think there are two things that are particularly significant when it comes to the rivers. (1) They show that Eden was up high, because rivers flow downhill. High places in the bible are often associated with places where people can meet with God. In Eden, Adam and Eve seemed to be in close relationship with God and meet with him regularly. (2) The rivers show us that the blessings of Eden were meant to "flow out" to the whole world. The whole world was meant to be one of order and beauty and God's blessings.

11. How does what we've looked at help you think about your current work when it is going well / when it is hard?

12. Adam was originally given the job of helping maintain God's orderly garden. How does your work help bring about order in the world? Are there jobs that bring about chaos rather than order? Are those jobs appropriate for a Christian?

13. Do you think it's possible to go about your work / life in a way that points others back to God's original design for work? Any examples?

14. For those who were part of the study last week we also looked at how what God has in store for us is rest. God rested on the seventh day of creation, encouraged the Jewish people to take a day of rest, and in Hebrews the new creation is described as an 'eternal rest'. The Bible seems to say that work and rest are both valuable and go hand in hand together. How are you going at finding balance between work and rest at the moment?

