RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Made to Make a Difference

Imago Dei

GENESIS 2:15 · COLOSSIANS 3:23

Kyle Goings • November 1, 2026

LEADER UPDATES

- **Thank you for investing in your Grow Group each week!** If you have questions, need help, or are looking for additional resources, visit our Grow Group Leader page: *ridgepointwichita.com/growleaders*
- **Looking for an easy icebreaker? Grab the NOT JUST SUNDAYS card game** we handed out. Try just a few cards each week—have everyone answer one card, or let people choose between two. It's a simple way to keep building relationships!
- **This discussion guide is exactly that—a guide**. Skip questions, add your own, spend longer on a verse, or adjust it to fit your group. You know your group best! And if you have feedback on these guides, please let us know.

Opening (10 min)

OPENING QUESTION

What's the most unusual, surprising, or downright strange job you've ever had (or heard of someone having)? What did it teach you about work?

ALTERNATE QUESTION

Think about the work you do in a typical week, paid or unpaid. Which part feels the most meaningful to you, and which part feels the most pointless?

BIG IDEA

Being made in God's image isn't only about *who* we are; it's also about *what* we were made to do. In Genesis 2:15, God gave Adam work before sin ever entered the world, so work is part of God's good design, not a curse. Pastor Kyle drew a line between a job (what you do for a paycheck), a career (the path you build), and a vocation (the calling God gives you to glorify Him and serve others). Jobs change, careers end, and AI may reshape how we work, but our God-given calling stays. We are made to **CREATE** because we bear the image of the ultimate Creator, to **CULTIVATE** because God puts something in our hands and asks us to steward it, and to **CONTRIBUTE** because our work is a way to serve others. Our work matters, but it doesn't determine our worth. God does.

1 · CREATE 2 · CULTIVATE 3 · CONTRIBUTE

Learning Together (36 min)



MAIN POINT 1 · 12 MIN

Made to Create

The very first thing the Bible shows us about God is that He creates. He takes a world that is formless and empty and fills it with life, beauty, and purpose. As His image-bearers, we reflect Him when we create too. The difference is that God creates out of nothing, while we create from what He has given us: God makes trees and we make rocking chairs; God makes wheat and we make bread. And creative work isn't reserved for

pastors and worship leaders. The first person Scripture describes as filled with God's Spirit was Bezalel, a craftsman standing in a workshop, not a preacher behind a pulpit.

SCRIPTURE

> **Genesis 1:1 (NIV)**
> *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

Before God is introduced as Savior, healer, or deliverer, He is introduced as Creator. Our creativity is a small reflection of His.

> **Exodus 31:1–5 (NLT)**
> [1]*Then the LORD said to Moses,* [2]*"Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.* [3]*I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts.* [4]*He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze.* [5]*He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft!"*

God handpicked a craftsman and filled him with His Spirit to build the Tabernacle, including the Ark of the Covenant. Skilled, hands-on work done for God is spiritual work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- "God makes trees; we make rocking chairs." What's something you've made, built, fixed, or designed that you were proud of? What did it feel like to finish it?
- Bezalel was filled with God's Spirit to make things, not to preach. Does that change how you see the "ordinary" skills God has given you? Which of your abilities might you be underestimating?
- Pastor Kyle said AI can generate an image, but it isn't an image-bearer. How does knowing your value comes from *whose* image you bear, not what you produce, change how you think about your work and the future?



MAIN POINT 2 · 12 MIN

Made to Cultivate

God put something in Adam's hands and asked him to care for it. The Hebrew words behind "work" and "take care of" in Genesis 2:15 carry the ideas of cultivating, keeping, and managing well. Adam didn't own the garden; he was entrusted with it. The same is true for us: God is the owner, and we are stewards called to help our corner of His world flourish. Pastor Kyle's story of three bricklayers shows that the same job can feel like stacking bricks, earning a paycheck, or building a cathedral. What changes is remembering who we're working for.

SCRIPTURE

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

Work was part of God's original design before sin ever entered the world. Sin corrupted our relationship with work, but God created us to tend and care for what He made.

> **Colossians 3:23 (NLT)**
> *"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."*

Our attitude toward work changes when we remember who we're really working for. Every task, seen or unseen, can be done for the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is your little corner of God's world (your workplace, home, school, or church) better because you're there? What makes you say that?
- Which "bricks" in your life feel most like pointless labor right now? What would it look like to see the cathedral instead?
- Our culture ties worth to paychecks, performance, and promotions. Where do you feel that pressure most, and how does Colossians 3:23 speak to it?



MAIN POINT 3 · 12 MIN

Made to Contribute

Our work isn't only about earning a living; it's about using what God has given us to make a difference in other people's lives. Most of the time, that looks ordinary. A mechanic fixing brakes keeps a family safe. A teacher helping a struggling student read changes a child's future. A teenager mowing an elderly neighbor's lawn makes someone's week easier. There may not be a uniquely Christian way to change an alternator, but there should be something different about *how* followers of Jesus work: with integrity, honesty, excellence, and dependability. Not to earn God's approval, but because we represent Him.

SCRIPTURE

> **Colossians 3:17 (NLT)**
> *"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."*

Whether customers, coworkers, or no one at all is watching, our work is a chance to represent Jesus well. Doing our work well is one of the greatest ways we can love our neighbors.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Think about the work you'll do this week. Who benefits from it, including people you may never meet?
- Integrity, honesty, excellence, dependability: which of these is hardest for you to live out in your workplace, classroom, or home? Why?
- Who is someone whose ordinary, faithful work has made a difference in your life? Have you ever told them?

Why This Matters (7 min)

Pastor Kyle closed with a challenge: don't just ask, "What do I do for a living?" Ask, "What am I doing with the life God has given me?" Your job may change and your career may end, but your calling to create, cultivate, and contribute never disappears. You weren't just made to make a living. You were made to make a difference.

SO HOW ARE YOU GOING TO APPLY THIS THIS WEEK?

- **With God:** Before you start work each day this week, pause and pray, "Lord, I'm working for You today" (Colossians 3:23). Notice how it changes your attitude toward the tasks you'd rather skip.
- **With our Grow Group:** Share one "brick" (a task, a job, or a season) that feels pointless right now, and let the group pray for you to see the cathedral. Then take a minute to name a gift you see in someone else in the group.
- **With those around us:** Do one ordinary piece of work this week specifically to serve someone else: mow a neighbor's lawn, help a coworker finish a project, or thank someone whose work makes your life better.

OUT PROJECT UPDATE (2 min)

- **Depending on your group's OUT PROJECT,** there may not be much to report each week, and that's okay! The biggest thing is simply keeping us in the loop.
- If you haven't already: **Please let us know what your group has chosen for your OUT PROJECT.**
- As you go: Keep us updated on any significant changes, needs, or progress with your project.
- Need ideas, resources, or guidance? Visit our Grow Group Leaders page (*ridgepointwichita.com/growleaders*) for more help.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today's sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that each person would see their work, paid or unpaid, as a calling from God and do it willingly for Him (Colossians 3:23).
- Pray for anyone in the group whose work feels pointless, uncertain, or changing, that they would rest in the truth that their worth comes from bearing God's image, not from what they produce.
- Pray for opportunities this week to represent Jesus through ordinary work, with integrity and excellence, and to serve others well (Colossians 3:17).

Beyond the Sermon (optional)

These passages weren't in Sunday's message but fit this week's theme. Use them if your group wants to go deeper.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

We are God's handiwork before we ever do any work. The good we do flows from who He has made us to be.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

Our abilities are gifts entrusted to us, meant to be used for the good of others.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NLT)

"Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom."

Life is short, and today's work is an opportunity we won't get back. That's a reason to give it our best.

TRY THIS

- **Workplace Prayer Walk:** One day this week, walk through your workplace, classroom, or home and quietly pray for the people who work or live there and the work they do.
- **Thank-You Note:** Write a short note to someone whose everyday work blesses you (a teacher, cashier, mechanic, coworker, or parent) and tell them specifically how their work made a difference.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Ephesians 2:10 says God planned good things for us to do long ago. How does that change the way you see your daily responsibilities?
- 1 Peter 4:10 says our gifts are meant to serve one another. What gift has God given you that you could use more intentionally in this group or at Ridgepoint?
- Where are you tempted to give less than your best? What would change if you did that task for the Lord (Ecclesiastes 9:10)?

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