

Small-Group Discussion Guide (3/1/2026)

Sermon recap: This week’s passage shows that daily work is not merely a burden to survive but a gift from God to steward as worship. From the garden in Genesis to Paul’s words in Colossians, Scripture frames ordinary labor as a place where God’s people reflect his character, serve their neighbors, and live from Christ’s finished work rather than striving to prove themselves. The call is not to make our work impressive, but to make it an offering—heartfelt, faithful, and directed to the Lord.

Main passage: Colossians 3:23–24

All passages used in the sermon: Colossians 3:1–4; Colossians 3:23–24; Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 2:15; Genesis 3:16–19; Jeremiah 29:4–7; Ecclesiastes 3:12–13; Psalm 90:14; 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Additional Scriptures: Ephesians 2:10; Proverbs 16:3; Matthew 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; Proverbs 11:25.

Brief definitions:

- **Shalom (Hebrew):** *the peace/flourishing of life as God intends it to be (wholeness, not just absence of conflict)*
- **Inheritance:** *a family gift received because you belong, not wages earned by performance.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What does “daily work” include for you right now? When you hear “work,” do you mainly think of a paid job, or also home responsibilities, and other unseen tasks? Name a few “ordinary” parts of your week that this passage speaks into. Which of those areas feels most spiritually disconnected to you right now?
2. This passage and other supporting texts present God as Creator, generous Father, and wise Master who gives work, sees faithfulness, and receives worship through ordinary life. What part of God’s character stands out to you most? How might your workweek change if you started each day remembering that God sees and cares?
3. Colossians 3 roots our work in the gospel first (Col. 3:1–4) and then calls us to work heartily (Col. 3:23–24), meaning our identity comes from Christ before our performance. Where are you tempted to prove yourself through productivity, approval, or visible success? What would it look like this week to act like a son/daughter in the Father’s world instead of someone trying to earn a place in the family?
4. What does “as for the Lord and not for men” change? The task may stay the same, but the audience changes. Talk about one ordinary responsibility (emails, dishes, practices, planning, caregiving, repairs, studying) and what it would mean to do that specifically “for the Lord.” What usually pulls your attention back toward people-pleasing in that task?
5. Gen. 3 reminds us that sin distorts work with thorns, frustration, and toil, so struggle at work is not surprising or shameful. Share one place where your daily work currently feels hard, and what kind of support or prayer you need. Can you identify one gift still present in that hard place (provision, growth, relationships, discipline, opportunity to serve)?
6. How does your work love your neighbor? The sermon emphasizes that vertical worship becomes horizontal love. Think about the real people your work touches (family, coworkers, students, patients, customers, teammates, neighbors). How can your faithfulness make life better for someone else this week? What is one concrete act of love or excellence you can do in your normal responsibilities—not extra, just more intentional?
7. What is one way you want to work differently this week? Think about one part of your daily work (paid work, home responsibilities, caregiving, school, or other regular tasks). What is one specific change you want to make this week in how you do it—especially in your attitude, integrity, gratitude, or care for others? How can this group pray for you by name in that one area this week?

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Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of daily work. Forgive us for the ways we seek approval, build identity, or carry burdens You did not ask us to carry. Root us again in the finished work of Jesus. Teach us to work heartily as worship to You, to love our neighbors through ordinary faithfulness, and to walk with gratitude and integrity this week. Show each of us one place to be faithful where our feet already are. In Jesus' name, amen.