



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 2:15-19; Psalm 8:4-8;
Matthew 5:13-16; John 17:15-18

April 29, 2018

For starters:

What was a highlight of your week? What was a lowlight?

What is a tedious or *draining* work-related task you have done? Why was it that way for you?

What is a *favorite* work project or task you have done or currently do? What makes it so favorable to you?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the four passages in your group. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the texts together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What responsibility, freedom, and limitation does God give the man (Gen 2:15-17)?
2. Note the special dimension of being created in the image of God (Gen 2:18). What implications does this have for your relationships with other people?
3. How does Psalm 8 compare with the way you view yourself? Some people think of themselves as “a little higher than the heavenly beings”; others think, “a little lower than the beasts of the field.” In what area does Psalm 8 correct your self-image?
4. Jesus compares his followers to salt and light (Matt 5:13-16). What do these metaphors suggest about our roles in society?
5. Can we do anything we want to God’s creation? What are our limits? Our responsibilities? (see Ps 8)
6. Have you ever wondered, gazing at a starry sky, how God could be “mindful” of your life and what you do? How do you feel regarding your importance to God? (see Ps 8)
7. What is at least one stressor for you regarding your work? For example, is it overload (too much or too difficult)? Interpersonal conflict? Role conflict? Time or material constraints? How do you address these stressors?
8. Where do you personally sense the needs of the world and feel the brokenness in God’s creation?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to speak to you. Ask God to show you how your life and what you do matters to Him. Ask God, where am I called now? Where do my deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger intersect? Go forth this week, knowing that God is indeed mindful of you and that what you do really, really matters to Him.

*These questions were adapted from both *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the United States of America, 1996) and *Work Worth Doing Well* (Grace Shangkuan Koo, 2017).