

SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

God's Purpose for your Work | Dave Cover | November 22, 2026

Article Review: "The Gospel for Bruised Reeds"

- What did you learn about how God might be working through pain in your life? What might he be trying to communicate to you through it?

Disciple Essentials "Justice"

- How has your sense of justice been expanded? What's your answer to question 5 on page 151?
- What are the four ways faith should affect our work? What is a takeaway from your answers to the first four questions? What is your answer to question 5?

Opening Question: Find your inner Dave: What's something you've seen or learned about space that makes you stop and think about how BIG and amazing God is?

Sermon Discussion

1. When you think about *work* in your life, what work do you do? Add it up — how much time do you spend each week working, serving, caring for others, and managing the responsibilities of life?

Genesis 1:1-3 & 31 NIV

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. **3** And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light…

31"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

2. What does it tell us about work that God himself is introduced in Scripture as a worker, and that we are made in his image?

3. In what ways have you seen/experienced the "thorns" and "thistles" of work?

Colossians 3:17, 23-24 NIV

17 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.

In the following verses, Paul is specifically addressing slaves within the household structures of that time.

[23]…Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,[24] since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

4. Dave said, "Your work is an assignment — a purpose — ultimately given to you from God. Your work is a way God is working through you to continue his work of creation and caring for creation…"

   #1 — There is no menial work. Our work has dignity, value, and purpose because God created us to work and gave us the responsibility of caring for his creation. Our work matters in the grand scope of eternity!

   How might this reshape the way you view the work you do each day, especially the tasks that seem ordinary, insignificant, or go unnoticed?

Proverbs 18:9 NIV
[9] "One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys."

5. We were made to work, made to care. *How* we approach our work matters.

   #2 — Do it well, because it is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. Our work isn't ultimately about pleasing people, earning recognition, or achieving success. It's an opportunity to serve Jesus.

   If you truly believed that you were serving Jesus through your work, what might change about the way you approach it? Are there particular attitudes, habits, or actions that need to change?

Sharing and Prayer

- Dave closed with the following question: *What would change tomorrow if you believed your work actually matters to God?* Spend some time talking through this question as a group.

  Prayer: Prayers of gratitude!

  Return to the list of work shared at the beginning. Thank God for the different ways he has created us to work, serve, provide, care, and contribute.

  - Thank God for the ordinary and even least-favorite tasks in your life.
  - Ask him to help you see the purpose in your work, find joy in the good parts, persevere through the difficult parts, and approach it all as service to Jesus.

What to Do for Next Time

- This week, do the worksheet "How Faith Affects Your Work" before our next meeting.
- It can be found at this link: https://info.thecrossingchurch.com/fall-2026-sermon-discussion