

# Vocation: Humans as Creators and Cultivators

## 2025 Vision Series: Vocation

Central Peninsula Church



*The practice of vocation is stewarding your God-given identity and calling to create and cultivate good in the world.*

### Opening Exercise: Creating & Cultivating Good

Invite each person to respond to the following: As you think back over the past week, identify one moment where you in your work, paid or unpaid, were able to create or cultivate (nurture, develop, care for) something good. What did you do, and why did it feel meaningful?

#### Quick Debrief:

- What do these moments reveal about the ways that we reflect God's image?

### Study and Discussion

#### Opening Prayer

Spend a few minutes in silence together. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see all of life—your time, talents, and treasures—through the lens of apprenticeship to Jesus.

#### Discussion Questions

As you move into the study portion of this discussion, take ample time to read and even re-read the passages below, slowly and aloud. As you read, ask yourselves three key questions: Why this? Why here? Why now? These questions will help you to discern the context of the passages.

→ **Read Genesis 1-2 aloud. As you read, begin to make initial observations about God's role in creation and the way he invites humanity to participate with him.**

- ◆ Is there anything that surprises you about the role and responsibility humans are given in these chapters?

→ **Revisit Genesis 1:26-31 together as a group.**

- ◆ How does this text deepen your understanding of what it means to be made in God's image?
- ◆ Where do you see themes of rule and dominion in this passage? What do you think it looks like for us to exercise dominion in a way that reflects and honors God?
- ◆ What does this passage reveal about the relationship between God's creative work and human participation in creation?

→ **Revisit Genesis 2:7-15 together as a group.**

- ◆ Where do you see the themes of stewardship emerge in this text? What do you think it looks like for us to be stewards of God's creation today?

God placing Adam and Eve in the garden and giving them an active role to tend to it establishes the pattern of work for all of humanity. Discuss the following quote from Tim Keller's book, *Every Good Endeavor*:

*[This pattern of work] is rearranging the raw material of God's creation in such a way that helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish. This pattern is found in all kinds of work. Farming takes the physical material of soil and seed and produces food. Music takes the physics of sound and rearranges it into something beautiful and thrilling that brings meaning to life. When we take fabric and make a piece of clothing, when we push a broom and clean up a room, when we use technology to harness the forces of electricity, when we take an unformed, naive human mind and teach it a subject, when we teach a couple how to resolve their relational disputes, when we take simple materials and turn them into a poignant work of art—we are continuing God's work of forming, filling, and subduing. Keller*

- Where do you see this pattern of “rearranging the raw material of God's creation” in your life? What are some of the “garden spaces” that God has entrusted you with to cultivate and steward?
- God intended for our work of creating and cultivating to flow out of our identity as God's image-bearers and contribute to the flourishing of others. How might placing our identity in what we accomplish or what we accumulate distort this vision of vocation?

### Key Points:

- **We are made in God's image. Our work in the world, paid and unpaid, flows from our identity as image bearers and is part of God's design to bring about life, order, and flourishing.**
- **We are stewards, not owners of the time, talents, and treasures God has blessed us with. We must resist the temptation toward accomplishment and accumulation.**
- **God invites us to participate with him in the renewal and restoration of creation through our creating and cultivating.**

### Take-Home Practice: Vocation Audit

Use this audit between now and your next group meeting to begin noticing how and where God has been inviting you to join him in creating and cultivating good.

#### → Identity and Gifts:

- ◆ Where in my life right now do I most clearly reflect the image of God as Creator and Cultivator?
- ◆ What gifts, skills, or passions has God uniquely wired me with?

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#### → Work (Paid & Unpaid)

- ◆ Which parts of my work (job, caregiving, household tasks, volunteering) feel most connected to God's kingdom purposes (the redemption and renewal of all things)? Which parts feel frustrating, heavy, or possibly counter to the kingdom of God?
- ◆ How is God inviting me to actively contribute to the flourishing of my family, church, and community? Where has he positioned me?

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