

# WORSHIP IN ALL OF LIFE

How God places a vocation on our life for worship and gives us songs to sing of praise and lament. Worship begins on Monday, and it's pinnacle is Sunday morning!

Week 1-3: Our vocations - work as worship; Week 4-5: Songs and Psalms of praise and lament as sound track to our lives

## Genesis 1-2

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

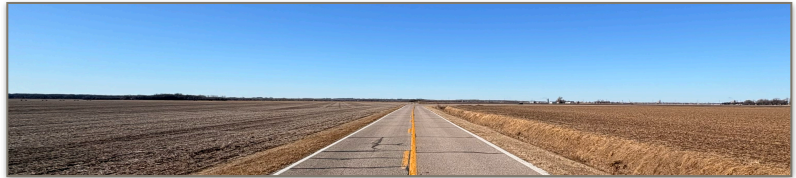
[27] So God created man in his own image, / in the image of God he created him; / male and female he created them.

[28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

[2:15] The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

## God loves process

"Spirit Time and process are aspects of the creation that God made and called "very good." When we are frustrated by the process that we call "growth," we can learn about our relationship with God by examining the frustration, the nature of the process as good, and the goal toward which we



## 1. Work is blessed before the Fall and is not a function of the Fall (it just makes it harder).

### Intro:

1. What makes Christian work good? I witness at my job. I pay my bills. I provide for my family. The purpose of my work life is \_\_\_\_\_. I plug my nose, I really don't like my job but took it for the money, and it is okay because now I give more money to the church and missionaries who do the real work. Or is there something bigger to our work?
2. Thesis: Our work is worship as we image back to him the greatness of his character and nature as we fulfill his creation mandate command with the gifts and work he has uniquely given to us for his glory and loving our neighbor.

### A. God works - He is a God of process.

1. Is God powerful enough to make the world in one day? Yes, but he takes six days to show process, a pattern of work. God gets his hands dirty each day. "So the word "subdue" indicates that even in its original, un-fallen form, God made the world to need work. He made it such that even he had to work for it to become what he designed it to be, to bring forth all its riches and potential. It is no coincidence that in Genesis 1, verse 28 God tells us to follow him in doing the

are working—namely, deeper communion with God.”

- Dr. Kelly Kopic, You're Only Human, chapter 8

## God creates a perfect world and gives us a start

““The naming of the animals in chapter 2, verses 19–20 is an invitation to enter into his creativity. Why didn’t God just name the animals himself? After all, in Genesis 1, God names things, “calling” the light “Day” and the darkness “Night”—so he was clearly capable of naming the animals as well. Yet he invites us to continue his work of developing creation, to develop all the capacities of human and physical nature to build a civilization that glorifies him. Through our work we bring order out of chaos, create new entities, exploit the patterns of creation, and interweave the human community. So whether splicing a gene or doing brain surgery or collecting the rubbish or painting a picture, our work further develops, maintains, or repairs the fabric of the world. In this way, we connect our work to God’s work.”

- Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor NOTES: Genesis 1-2

Genesis 1:1-5

[1] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

same things that he has been doing—filling and subduing.” - Keller

2. Why does he not create all the world like a city? Why only a garden in a vast world? Creation was “Good”. Why only start it with 2 people, why not cities with 7 billion people? We are vice-regents, the animals and plants are not (leads to our next point).

## *B. God gives us work to copy him. It is image bearing. God CALLS us to work. It is our worship.*

1. Image bearing is worship. We have a special way to glorify God, different than creation can because we are image bearers. It is how we image back to God how great he is. It is what it means to be made in his image. It glorifies him when we look like him. When we create like him using what he has made. He creates out of nothing - we create like him using all the tools and materials he has built. When we hover over the chaos and create order.
2. God names. Why doesn’t he just name everything? Why does he want Adam and Eve to name? He invites us into the process of work.
3. The creation mandate is worship: go and make the rest of the world thrive like this. We have special work above plant work to reproduce after our kind. Subdue and have dominion.
4. This all happens before the Fall in Genesis 3. Work is cursed, read that, but it is NOT the curse. Work is not the punishment.

## *C. What is a vocation? It is God calling you to specific work in each of your spheres that he has specifically gifted you with unique skill sets, aptitudes, and capabilities for the benefit of others and the glory of the Lord.*

1. Now ask the question again? What is your work? It is not singular, he likely has put multiple vocations on your life. Farmer, homemaker, husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother, etc. all spheres of our life.
2. Ephesians 2:8-10 - what are the good works he has designed you to walk in? Can you worship this week through your work?

## Week 1 of 5

Genesis 1:[3] And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. [4] And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. [5] God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:11-13

[11] And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. [12] The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. [13] And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Genesis 1:20-23

[20] And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” [21] So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. [22] And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” [23] And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

[Front of handout]

Genesis 2:1-3

[1] Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. [2] And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. [3] So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Genesis 2:19-20

[19] Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. [20] The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Ephesians 2:8-10

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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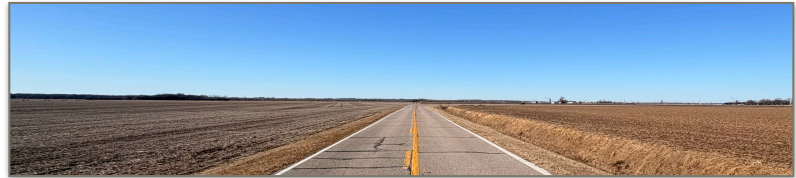
Week 1-3: Our vocations - work as worship; Week 4-5: Songs and Psalms of praise and lament as a sound track to our lives

## Genesis 11

[1] Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. [2] And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. [3] And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. [4] Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

## The "work" under the work:

"One of the reasons work is both fruitless and pointless is the powerful inclination of the human heart to make work, and its attendant benefits, the main basis of one's meaning and identity. When this happens, work is no longer a way to create and bring out the wonders of the created order, as Calvin would say, or to be an instrument of God's providence, serving the basic needs of our neighbor, as Luther would say. Instead it becomes a way to distinguish



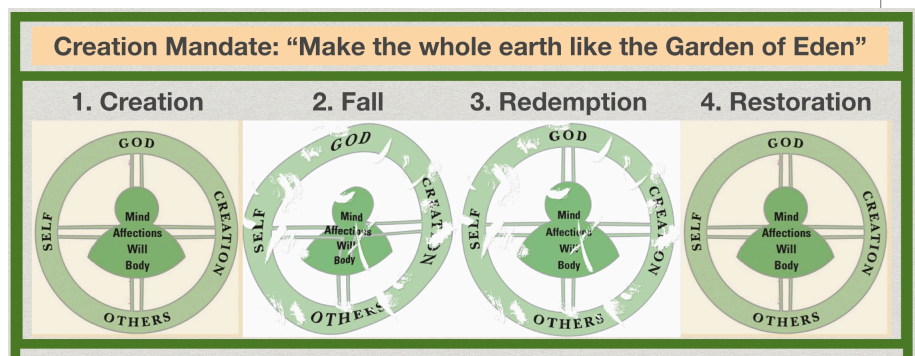
## 2. What makes work so hard?

*Intro: What are your vocations?*

List all I have heard on the board before class and add to it.

*A. All of creation fell in FOUR ways, not just one.*

1. "We labor inside a world that is fundamentally broken. Expect it - don't be cynical, and don't be surprised by it. Fruit will always come with thorns and thistles." - me;
2. Graphic explained - CREATION: we are the creation, dependent on the only good, Independent One God, made to be dependent on creation and others. We are finite, we have finitude, he is the only infinite one. We have limits and limits are not sin, we can't create out of nothing, we need sleep, we need each other and God's good creation.





myself from my neighbor, to show the world and prove to myself that I'm special.”

“To make a name” in the language of the Bible is to construct an identity for ourselves. We either get our name—our defining essence, security, worth, and uniqueness—from what God has done for us and in us (Revelation 2:17), or we make a name through what we can do for ourselves.” - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.' - Revelation 2:17

- Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor

1. Hiding: Genesis 3:[8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
2. Self-others broke: Genesis 3:[9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” [10] And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” [11] He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” [12] The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” [13] Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
3. Creation broke - Genesis 3:17-19[17] And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
3. Fruitlessness defined by one author: “We mean that, in all our work, we will be able to envision far more than we can accomplish, both because of a lack of ability and because of resistance in the environment around us. The experience of work will include pain, conflict, envy, and fatigue, and not all our goals will be met.”
4. We need to be restored in more than one way. Christ is preeminent and restoring ALL things: “Colossians 1:[18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself **all** things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

5. Summary: why is work so hard answer 1? We labor inside a world that is fundamentally broken. We are broken and so is all of creation.

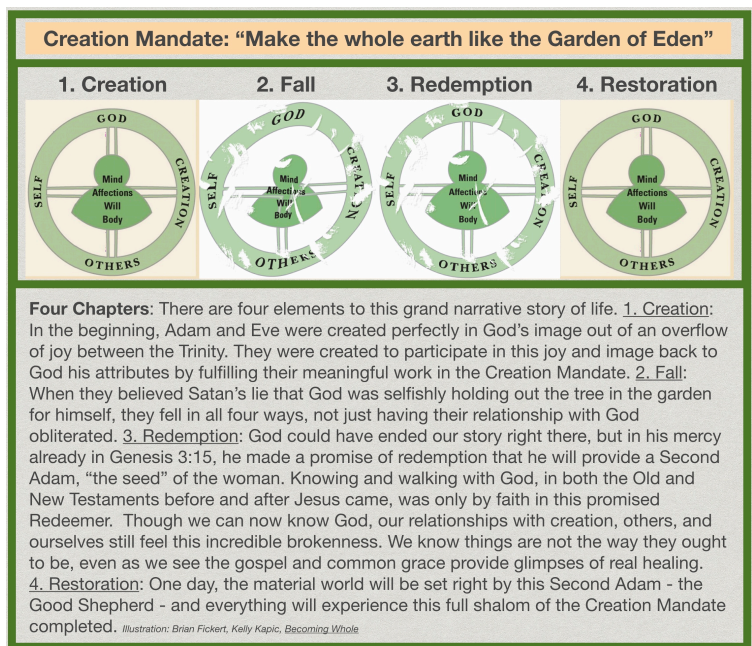
*B. The fall is us thinking we can be gods. There is only one Independent One. We are created dependent by design before the fall as good, now we fight that.*

1. "Little gods and sovereigns": Adam and Eve's sin is we can be independent ones not just God. We think it looks weak to be dependent, but that is what it means to be human. We do not want others to have the glory for our work.
  1. Genesis 3:[1] Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
2. Since we think we can be gods / independent ones, we now need to make our own meaning instead of looking to God for our meaning. We make our meaning apart from God and his image and glory.
  1. Tower of Babel: Read Genesis 11 from page 1 of inset. - watch how we see it play out in our work.
    1. Autonomous - reach the heavens place themselves as high as God. City - no thank you to make the rest of the world like the garden we like it here and do what we say. Meaning based on sand: we will answer the question who am I by making a name for ourselves and giving us our own meaning.
3. Summary: why is work so hard answer 2? Because we still want to believe Satan's lie that we can be independent like God, so we make our own meaning apart from him, just like our friends at the Tower of Babel.

*C. Sin has impacted even work.*

1. Work is NOT about our work. Ouch. "The work under the work." My work is not about getting the job done, it is about making my life worth it.
  1. Read quote on inset - work is hard because the work under the work - work is hard enough but really under that work we are striving for meaning and make our life worth. To make a name for ourselves.
2. Underwork: what does my work matter? I am doing more important things studying God's word 10 hours / day. You pay my mortgage while I am waiting for the day of the Lord. Saving souls is all that really matters and what is physical is evil and spiritual is good - violates God loving his material world, becoming flesh endorsing it, and redeeming ALL things to himself. - 2 Thessalonians 3:[11] For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. [12] Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

3. Overwork: And crowding out our good work in our other vocations. The lie is quality time with my family not quantity. Reality is both. Retirement often is flipping to 6 days of rest and 1 day of work. That ruins the work / sabbath rhythm and pattern from the beginning. But WHY can't we Sabbath? Because we are gods and things will fall apart if I don't work.
4. Perfectionism ruins my work: defined - the agonizing weight that my work is never good enough, I need to do more to be more, God is happy with me but I am not. "It is not worth doing if it is not worth doing perfectly." Opposite of perfectionism is not laziness, it is achievement. We were made dependent and with limitations before the fall, that is what it means to NOT be god who has no limitations.
5. Does the term functional savior resonate with you? "I know Christ died for my sins and I could not, but I really will be happier once I get my next raise. What ever makes me happier and gives my life value, that is what I am functionally leaning on to save me from meaninglessness or weightlessness or lack of value.
  1. What if its not money? What if it is title? What if is power, I work hard to one day have power over others to command respect, then I will feel better about myself? I know Christ died for me, but I want to give my family things I never had then I will have made it. Then my spouse will finally be satisfied with me. Then I will have done big enough work that I will have made a big impact on the world like Bill Gates. I am sitting on a ton of money, why? Because I know Jesus died for me but now I will not worry about retirement, I have it. What if it is comfort, then I will be happy.
  2. Work becomes our salvation project.  
Functionally it is where we will one day be worth it, apart from God.
6. Summary: why is work so hard answer 3? Our sin destroys good work. We are good at trying to create meaning and adding weight to our lives apart from God. But it never fulfills. We are NOT gods.



1. lead-in for next week: the gospel transforms everything! If we fell in 4 ways, the good news of Christ has something to say about ALL four.
2. What if you have been given an everlasting name - Isaiah 56? What if you really were adopted as God's child and had son status, and this was done in love - Romans 8?
3. What if there was rest from the work under the work, and you HAVE meaning and worth in God not a part from him? Matthew 11:[28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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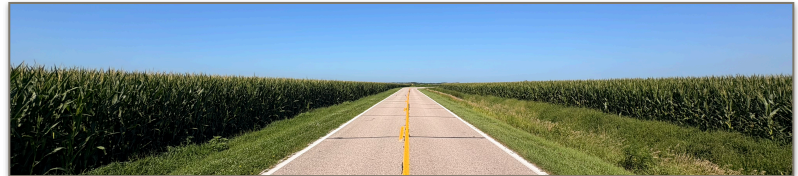
## Hebrews 4 - Rest

[8] For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. [9] So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, [10] for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

## Our work becomes how we practically love God and love others.

Matthew 22:[37] And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [40] On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- "When we work, we are... the 'fingers of God,' the agents of his providential love for others." (1)



## 3. What does the gospel have say about how we do our work?

### A. What is the gospel, really?

1. Fell in 4 ways: God, creation, others, me;
2. Good news not good advice: you can't give yourself purpose and meaning apart from God, you can't use work like the Tower of Babel, you can't use good works get rid of your sin, you can't save yourself. Jesus is the savior.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
4. Death row sprung because debt paid AND given his Medal of Honor.
5. Summary: We fell in four ways, am broken and this world is broken and

### B. We get rest from the "work under the work."

1. It is the work of making purpose and worthwhile life and meaning that tires out your life. That is you trying to save yourself.
2. Hebrews 4:8 and put this in context: God's people are in captivity and slavery in Egypt. 10 plagues and God

## All work is equal value before God.

- “Luther writes: “God could easily give you grain and fruit without your plowing and planting, but he does not want to do so.” And so we see what Luther means by God’s vocation. Not only are the most modest jobs—like [doing the dishes, laundry, changing diapers], plowing a field or digging a ditch—the “masks” through which God cares for us, but so are the most basic social roles and tasks, such as voting, participating in public institutions, and being a father or mother... “God milks the cows through the [dairy farmer].” (1)

## Free to work

- “Why should I not therefore freely, joyfully, with all my heart, and with an eager will . . . give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me . . . since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ?” 76 Since we already have in Christ the things other people work for—salvation, self-worth, a good conscience, and peace—now we may work simply to love God and our neighbors. It is a sacrifice of joy, a limitation that offers freedom.”

- (1) Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor

miraculously parts Red Sea and rescues them, wander 40 years in the wilderness, then get to the promised land, their rest.

3. Matthew 11:[28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
4. One author said it this way, “Remember, God was able to rest in Genesis 2, verses 1–3 only because his creative work was finished. And a Christian is able to rest only because God’s redemptive work is likewise finished in Christ. When the work under the work has been satisfied by the Son, all that’s left for us to do is to serve the work we’ve been given by the Father.” - Keller
5. Summary: Because God saved me and it was by his grace and his work, I don’t have to use my work or anything else to save me. Now the work can be about the work and not me. I can rest from the work under work.

## C. *We are never more than six days away from Sabbath.*

1. Is Sunday **rest** a luxury? Is Sunday different? Or is it just another day that ends in a Y and is for work too? One author asked it this way: “What if I told you that sabbath / rhythm of 6 days of work 1 day of rest was NOT a luxury, but a fundamental aspect of how God made you?”
2. We are dependent. Reminds us that we have creaturely limits, our finitude, and dependent. Limits are not sin. Not being able to do more is not a sin. Jesus slept in the front of the boat exhausted. We can actually Sabbath - rest as a command to remember and practice: we are not God. The pattern of work is six days of work and one day of rest.
3. Am I enough? Reminder that I do not get my sense of who I am and that my life has meaning from my work. My work is worship not meaning. Romans 3 imputed righteousness, I am loved Romans 8, I am being made into the great life of Christ.
4. Putting to rest fears: Will the business collapse if its not for me?



5. Andy crouch Playing God book, Culture Making, calls it a weekly circuit breaker, built in reset that prevents burnout and idolatry of production.
6. Explain what pinnacle of the week is.
7. Kaptic quote on sabbath in you're only human book's chapter: From its foundation in the opening creation narrative (Gen. 2:1-3) to its inclusion as one of the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:8-11), the call to rest from one's regular labor was a defining characteristic of the Creator God and his worshipers. Strong and weak, rich and poor, male and female, all were to be free at least one day in seven, free for unhindered worship, refreshment, and renewal. Amid the endless demands of life and labor, one day a week was treated as different, reminding Israel that God, not creatures, upholds the world and calls it good. We were designed not only to work but also to rest, just as God rested after six days of creative work. Yahweh looked back at his creation in delight and satisfaction, declaring the seventh day as holy, different, set apart.<sup>28</sup> The Sabbath was not instituted to make you feel guilty but to make you feel known and loved. It was meant to reorient your view and experience of God and his world. As Jesus later explained, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). Contradicting our temptation to imagine that God's love for us depends on our productivity, one day a week he says, "Stop; look up; look around; lift your heart; delight and rest." Kaptic p219.
8. Summary: The regular rhythm of Sabbath rest - this gift - reminds us we HAVE rest from the work under the work, and we are not God but dependent on him, creation and others.

*D. We are free to pick work that benefits others and uses our giftings, not suffer because of a paycheck or lifestyle. That is vocation.*

1. This is practically how we love God / love others: read page 1-2 quote and Matthew verse
2. All work is the same value - we assign based on supply and demand, not many want to do the long decade plus of work of becoming a doctor.
3. Work becomes "overflow and out-of" not a must have to get a life. We do not have to get trapped into certain jobs we are not gifted for in order to save us or give us meaning that we already have in Christ. We are free to work hard at ANY work that God has called us to and gifted us for.
4. Net worth is not your value. Assets like house minus loans is not your worth. Your worth is settled. You can use your balance sheet for good.
5. Summary: the gospel lets us embrace ALL work as our worship, and practically to show our love for God and love for others.

*E. We can leave "dualism with isolation" and move to "integration with transformation."*

1. What is dualism? Dualism is Sunday is all that matters, and my Christian faith has little to say and little impact on my life the rest of the week. The rest of my week is "secular". Sacred / secular divide.

2. Integration: faith and work belong together all week. Worship in all of life. Chuck Colson would often quote Dutch theologian and statesman in the late 1800's Abraham Kuyper. He stated: "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" If all of creation is God's how can I live faithfully all 7 days in worship?
3. What do I do about culture? Should we isolate from it as believers? What is our role?
  1. Defined: Culture making is the creation mandate, fruitful, multiply, subdue, dominion - Andy Crouch again describes it as what we make of the world.
  2. What do we do with it? Three main stances: Avoid it - that is isolationism; Mindlessly take it in - that is consumerism; Or transform it. We are to use the raw materials God made and put them to work to build a culture for God's glory and human thriving. We are making the case that Christians in the world and in the work place and government and all spheres of life are building and transforming culture.
  3. Does God just give gifts to Christians? Do we only work with Christians? We are making the argument that work is God's idea and in his common grace he gifts gifts to all for culture making.
4. Common Grace is strong in transforming and building culture. Wayne Grudem in Systematic Theology.
  1. **Common Grace:** What are the undeserved blessings that God gives to all people, both believers and unbelievers? How can God continue to give blessings to sinners who deserve only death (G657)
  2. **Defined:** Common grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessing that are not part of salvation (G657).
    1. Intellectually-every man has a basic understanding of God (Rom 1:21);
    2. Matthew 5:[43] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
    3. government is one of God's primary means to restrain evil in society (Rom 13:1, 4); HS work that evil is held back and evil is not as rampant as could be.
    4. Common grace does not save people as is not the same as saving grace;
    5. In common grace, God gives all image bearers gifts. Non-Christians do excellent work. God in his providence cares for the world. He uses our work. He uses work of all image bearers as a channel of his love for the world to show his care for the world and human thriving.
  6. Every Good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. James 1
  7. Arthur Homes from Wheaton College. All truth is God's truth.
  8. Our discoveries are "God opens HIS box":

1. Grain for bread - Isaiah 28: [27] Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod. [28] Does one crush grain for bread? No, he does not thresh it forever; when he drives his cart wheel over it with his horses, he does not crush it. [29] This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.
  1. "So every advancement in learning, every work of art, every innovation in health care or technology or management or governance, is simply God "opening his book of creation and revealing his truth" to us.
3. Summary: integration and transformation - our worship and faith is integrated to all 7 days of the week, part of culture making is being done in God's world with all image bearers with the gifts that he has given to each for the channel of love for his world and the thriving of mankind. All truth is God's truth and we should celebrate that in all the places we see it, even dimly.
4. Summary of today:
5. Prayer

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Week 1-3: Our vocations - work as worship; Week 4-5: Songs and Psalms of praise and lament as a sound track to our lives

## Psalm 43:5

In singing we “preach” to ourselves not just listen to ourselves:

[5] Why are you cast down, O my soul, / and why are you in turmoil within me? / Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, / my salvation and my God.

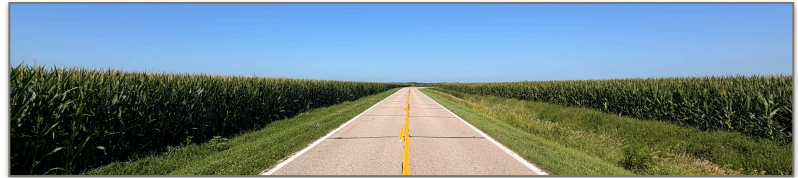
## Psalm 100

[1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! / Serve the LORD with gladness! / Come into his presence with singing / Know that the LORD, he is God! / It is he who made us, and we are his; / we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. / Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! / For the LORD is good; / his steadfast love endures forever, / and his faithfulness to all generations.

## God is For Us

Verse 2

Even when I stumble / Even when I fall / Even when I turn back, still Your love is sure / You will not abandon / You will not forsake / You will cheer me onward with never ending grace



## Worship: We sing our faith

### 1. *What is worship?*

A. Worship defined. It is the act of ascribing ultimate value to something in a way that engages your entire being.

### 2. *Why do we worship? Because we will worship something. We are created to worship.*

A. Romans shows we are hard wired to worship. And we do the great-exchange.

A. Romans 1:18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. [19] For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. [21] For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

## Chorus

Sing with joy now: our God is  
for us / The Father's love is a  
strong and mighty fortress /  
Raise your voice now, no love is  
greater / Who can stand against  
us if our God is for us

## Bridge

Neither height nor depth can  
separate us / Hell and death will  
not defeat us / He who gave His  
Son to free us / Holds me in His  
love

*Credits: Michael Farren, James Ferguson, Tiarne  
Kleyn, Jesse Reeves, Jonny Robinson, James Tealy,  
Rich Thompson*

## Worship is...

“We have been commanded to rejoice, but here is the key: our rejoicing does not mean that we ignore evils, harden our hearts, or withdraw from the difficulties of pain and sufferings. No, we rejoice because God is near. We rejoice because we remember what God has done, we look for what he is doing, and we identify his presence and kindness in whatever is good, noble, just, peace producing, and worthy of praise.”

- Dr. Kelly Kapic, [You're Only Human](#)

B. [24] Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25] because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

B. We have disordered loves: we sin by worshipping not just bad things but good things.

A. Saint Augustine talks about in terms of Disordered loves: He defined sin as "disordered loves", meaning the essence of wrongdoing is not necessarily loving bad things - breaking the 10 commandment although it is - , but misplacing the priority of our affections. It is making even good things like our work, marriage, parenting, church work, etc. as ultimate things. God created good things, we put them in his rightful place. That is our work conversation, changing a good thing for worship to make a name for ourselves apart from God, establish our own meaning and value without him: “my life will have been worth it if \_\_\_\_\_.”

C. We can look like we worship God but we are really worshipping something else.

A. Matthew 15:1-9 [1] Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, [2] “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” [3] He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? [4] For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ [5] But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” [6] he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. [7] You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: [8] “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; [9] in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”



- A. They had disordered loves. God was not top in their affections. They wanted power. They loved walking in the public places and feeling the second tier people worship them. They loved their country above God. They sought their own righteousness but missed that it was Christ for righteousness - Romans 10:
- B. Romans 10:[1] Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. [2] For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. [3] For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. [4] For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- D. How do I find my disordered loves? Where am I seeking happiness, joy, peace, apart from and separate from Christ? How do I find these functional saviors? Counterfeit Gods / summarized in Commentary Romans 1-7

### 1. Three ways to find idols and helpful questions to ask:

1. If you are angry, ask: Is there something too important to me? Something I am telling myself I have to have? Is that why I am angry—because I am being blocked from having something I think is a necessity when it is not?"
  2. If you are fearful or badly worried, ask: Is there something too important to me? Something I am telling myself I have to have? Is that why I am so scared—because something is being threatened which I think is a necessity when it is not? What is my greatest nightmare? What do I worry about most? What, if I failed or lost it, would cause me to feel that I did not even want to live?
  3. If you are despondent or hating yourself, ask: Is there something too important to me? Something I am telling myself I have to have? Is that why I am so "down"—because I have lost or failed at something I think is a necessity when it is not?
- E. Disappointment versus inordinate, disappointment, and grief over the grief requires repentance. Grieving is hard enough. You're probably onto a functional savior if it moves from inordinate disappointment from ordinary to inordinate.

2. It's too simplistic to say I am tempted to worship my work. Instead of work being worship it is my functional savior. But what about work is really driving you for meaning? Here are 10:

#### **Life only has meaning, or I only have worth, if...**

I have power and influence over others - power idolatry - that is my functioning savior, that is what gives me meaning.

I am loved and respected by - approval idolatry.

I have this kind of pleasure experience, or this particular quality of life - comfort idolatry.

I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of - control idolatry.

People are dependent on me and need me - helping idolatry.

Someone is there to protect me and keep me safe - dependence idolatry.

I am completely free from any obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone - independence idolatry.

#### **I am highly productive, getting a lot done - work idolatry.**

I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and/or if I am excelling in my career - achievement idolatry.

#### **12. I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and am accomplished in its activities - religion idolatry.**

**13. This one person is in my life and happy there and/or happy with me - individual person idolatry.**

16. A particular social, professional, or other group lets me in - belonging idolatry.

17. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me - family idolatry.

**18. Mr or Ms "Right" is in love with me - relationship idolatry.**

19. I am hurting or in a problem. Only then do I feel noble, worthy of love, or able to deal with guilt - suffering idolatry.

20. My political or social cause or party is making progress and ascending in influence or power - ideology idolatry.

**Dismantling our Idols - only one way works - Worship: repent and ascribe ultimate value to God; he is better than respect, family, good relationships, belonging, comfort.**

- A. Anything that is not god will crumble under our weight of worship. He is the only one to sustain and not collapse. And deliver. Job lies and does not. The uncertainty of riches.
- F. Summary: Only when we see that Christ lost the riches of heaven, became poor for me, and redeemed me while I still hated him, will my heart be melted to know him as my greatest treasure. Only then will I worship him.

**3. How do we worship?**

- A. emotional language Psalm 100. "Feelings include things like gratitude, hope, joy, contentment, peacefulness, desire, compassion, fear, hate, anger, grief." Born again means changed affections.
- B. Commanded to do together - built like the trinity as relational beings. Sometimes I need to hear you sing these words as true.
- C. With reason and thinking - Psalm 100. Ours is a thinking peace. Not clearing your mind to peace, it is filling it with good, with who God is and all he is for us in Christ.
  - A. We sing our faith: God is for Us sung just 3 week ago - Romans 8;
  - B. Philippians 4:[6] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
  - C. [8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- D. By preaching to ourselves, not just listening to ourselves - Psalm 43 above:
- E. On schedule - With priority - regular cadence: What can we do to ensure Sunday the pinnacle of the week? Capstone of creation week; Christ rose; He is our rest; Psalm 122: [1] I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- F. Summary: we sing our faith

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## Psalm 13

[1] How long, O LORD?  
Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide  
your face from me?

[2] How long must I take  
counsel in my soul

and have sorrow in my  
heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be  
exalted over me?

[3] Consider and answer me,  
O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I  
sleep the sleep of death,

[4] lest my enemy say, "I  
have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice  
because I am shaken.

[5] But I have trusted in your  
steadfast love;

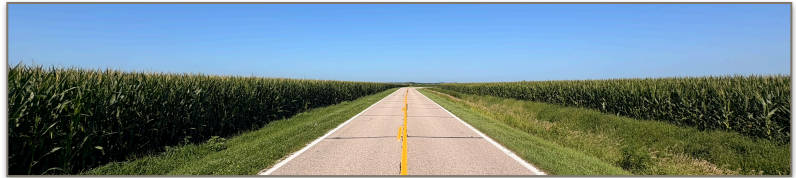
my heart shall rejoice in  
your salvation.

[6] I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt  
bountifully with me.

## Brokenness hurts and is real

Hope that grieves "recognizes  
the rumble of panic underneath  
everything."

- Ernest Becker, quoted in  
Suffering, by Tim Keller



## Worship: We pray our laments

*Intro: Lament is worship.*

We don't wait until we are healed and then worship. Somehow we worship in the brokenness. Job 1:[20] Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.

*1. What is lament? Lament is raw, unpremeditated prayer of pain that leads to trust.*

How do we grieve? How do we watch others grieve? Three main categories: 1 Thessalonians 4[13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

A. Grieve but with no hope - fall apart, despondency, life does not move forward.

B. Those that don't grieve and say they have hope: Stuff it / deny - deny it does not hurt, that it is not real, then live a life of un-attachment so nothing hurts but then no love. Don't talk about it. This is re-reading Christ in the garden story upside-down: is not jumping around saying I know God is working all for my good - that is NOT grieving with hope.

## **“From the Depths of Woe” based on Psalm 130 - Martin Luther**

1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee

The voice of lamentation.

Lord, turn a gracious ear to me,

And hear my supplication.

If Thou iniquities dost mark,

Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,

O who shall stand before Thee?

O who shall stand before Thee?

2. To wash away the crimson stain

Grace, grace alone availeth.

Our works, alas! Are all in vain,

In much the best life faileth.

No man can glory in Thy sight,

All must alike confess Thy might,

And live alone by mercy.

And live alone by mercy.

3. Therefore my trust is in the Lord,

And not in mine own merit.

On Him my soul shall rest, His word

Upholds my fainting spirit.

His promised mercy is my fort,

My comfort and my sweet support.

I wait for it with patience.

I wait for it with patience.

4. What though I wait the live-long night,

And 'til the dawn appeareth.

My heart still trusteth in His might.

It doubteth not nor feareth.

Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,

### C. Third way: grieve WITH hope - “lament”

1. don't pretend it is easy or doesn't hurt. Don't rush it. Don't think that you have more faith the less days it takes. Lean into your grief, bring it to him, the only way through is through, and it is not linear it is cyclical.
2. faith will not make it hurt less; We grieve AND it is with hope. faith will not make it hurt less. Tears are not the enemy and your job is not to make them stop in your spouse. So what is the enemy? Bitterness and despondency.
3. It does not minimize the pain of being human, It does not sweep it under the rug with, “just be tougher”. Ernest Becker quote: Hope that grieves “recognizes the rumble of panic underneath everything.”
4. Lament prayers are “process language.” Mark Vroegrop in his book Dark Clouds Deep Mercy notes that fully 1/3 of the Psalms are lament in this minor-key. Listen to Psalm 130 Martin Luther's song.

2. Summary: We have a way to grieve with hope. It is lament.

### *2. Why do we lament? We lament because the world is broken.*

A. Image again of broken world waiting for restoration of all things.

B. Are you grieving that you are grieving? If you are surprised you are making grief harder. It is called “grieving that you are grieving.” Why me? But I love Jesus, this is not supposed to

Ye of the Spirit born indeed,  
And wait 'til God appeareth.  
And wait 'til God appeareth.

5. Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
His grace much more aboundeth.  
His helping love no limit knows,  
Our upmost need it soundeth.  
Our Shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.  
From all their sin and sorrow.

happen like this? Christians are not somehow exempt from the brokenness of the world, Christ was not, but we are given his presence through it. Mark 4 - even the disciples had the category that followers of Christ are loved and do not drown in boats sinking by asking, don't you love us?

C. Conclusion: expect we will suffer in this broken world AND expect somehow God will carry you.

### *3. How do we practically lament? We turn, tell, ask, and trust - the pattern of lament.*

Follow the pattern in Psalm 13.

2. Turn: v1 and all the why through the whole thing he is talking to GOD.
3. Tell: guys - stuff it that is where guys go. Don't talk about it. I'm telling everyone but God. Tell to God.
  1. V1 - RAW, unpremeditated - "forget me" hide your face... v2 enemies over me.
4. Ask: v3 light up, and victory.
5. Trust: v5-6 I have steadfast love, I have salvation, I have history with you and have seen you work bountifully and I have watched it in your bountiful dealings with your people.
  1. Rehearse what we know to be true (above) - that is the T- in Trust; same as "hearing Jesus speak into your sorrows", what did he NOT promise? What did he promise? What is true. Ours is a thinking peace. We do have answers. Why did my loved one die?
    1. Broken world that IS heading to the restoration of all things.
    2. He entered in and he knows - Hebrews 4:[15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
    3. He is doing something about it - the restoration means that evil will be undone. He is doing what the first Adam failed to do: make the whole world look like the garden of Eden and will present a garden-city to his father that we see coming down in Revelation 21.
    4. We are not being punished - there is no double jeopardy. Romans 8:[34] Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
    5. Rehears Romans 8:17: Paul writes we are "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him** in order that we may also be glorified with him" (8:17): What do I have to help me suffer? Paul gives us three things!
      1. 8:18 FOR I consider that the suffering of this present time is not worth comparing to the glory that is to be revealed.
      2. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words



3. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. - God works all for good and its his son's likeness and its guaranteed.
6. I have a loving Father who is for me and with me in the pain and he is on his throne and nothing happens outside his dominion, he has his ultimate reasons, he is God and I am not. And he loves me.
7. Christ was abandoned by the father on the cross when he prayed, why have you forsaken me, so that I will not be abandoned by God when I suffer.
2. Summary: We have a great pattern to pray our laments as worship. Do we know it? Do we use it? Are we ready when suffering comes to pray this way?
  1. God meets us in our raw, unpremeditated prayers as we grieve IN hope.
  2. All of life is worship: we worship through our work, through singing our faith, and we worship in our prayers of lament. God alone is worthy of the weight of our worship.