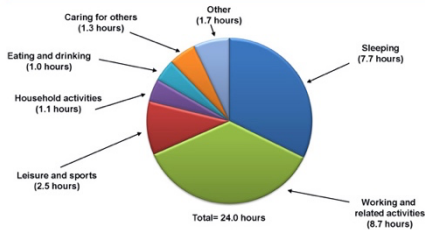


Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 9.13.2026

Work in the Beginning

Lesson One • Genesis 1–2

Time use on an average work day for employed persons ages 25 to 54 with children



NOTE: Data include employed persons on days they worked, ages 25 to 54, who lived in households with children under 18. Data include non-holiday weekdays and are annual averages for 2013. Data include related travel for each activity.
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Time Use Survey

“Work for the King” Survey

Please fill out to not only help me help you but help others as well!

Fulfillment, Frustration, and Following Jesus at Work

“This job that takes up so many hours of my life and so much of my mental space, that frustrates me to no end sometimes and gives me great joy at other times—what does it all finally mean?”

In the Beginning God Worked, We Worked, and It Was All VERY GOOD!

1. In the Beginning GOD Worked: *He Created and It Was All Very Good!* Genesis 1

➤ God **WORKING** in Creation. Genesis 1:1, 31-2:3

(1:31) “...all that He had **MADE**... **(2:2)** God completed His **WORK** which He had **DONE**...all His **WORK** which He had **DONE**...all His **WORK** which God had **CREATED** and **MADE**.”

Creating is working and working is creating!

Words Used to Describe God Working

1. **SUCCESSFUL** and Significant (Serviceable?) Work

“which He had done” (2x); “all that He had made...and made” (2x)

2. **SKILLFUL** and Satisfying Work

“work” (3x); “all His work” (2x)

- Contrasted with words for *bitter* work, *miserable* work, *painful* work, *wearisome* work, *burdensome* work.
- Can also refer to any routine task of any class from royal work to menial work, from skilled labor to simple labor even slave labor.

3. **SUPERNATURAL** Work

“created” (1x in 2:3)

In a biblical view of work – no job is too small or insignificant to not be called significant, skillful, and successful in God’s eyes!

- God didn’t just work but He *created, formed, shaped, and filled!*

“... He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:3

*“(the work) **which God creatively made**” NET Notes “all the **work of creating** that He had done.” NIV11*

➤ God **ENJOYING** His work in Creation. Genesis 1:1, 31-2:3

Ways God Enjoyed Working

1. He **BEHELD** it all and it was very good! *Genesis 1:31*
2. He **RESTED** from the work which He had done. *Genesis 2:2*

God's Rest Is a Reminder

- To remind His creatures the need for a **RHYTHM** of work and rest.
 - To remind His creatures how our work is never a **REPLACEMENT** for worship.
3. He **BLESSED** the seventh day on which He rested from all His work. *Genesis 2:3*

"These events do not involve strenuous activity; they do not involve work at all. Instead, they convey the mental actions of enjoyment, approval, and delight." –C. John Collins

God's Blessing Promises Future Fulfillment

- **TRUST** in God's blessing and provision and not our own efforts. *Get off the treadmill! Squirrel wheel!*
- Stay fixated, hold fast, and move forward to His **FINAL** rest and **FUTURE** salvation. *Hebrews 3–4*

2. In the Beginning **MANKIND** Worked: God Created Us in His Image to Work and It Was All Very Good! *Genesis 2*

People work because they are made to **IMAGE** God over creation! *Genesis 2:5-9, 15-25; 1:26-30*

- God gave humanity the work of cultivating and caring for the King's **GARDEN-PARADISE** in Eden!

1. God **put** Adam in a **PLACE** of **peace**, **protection**, and **pleasure** in His **presence**! (2:8, 15a)
2. God **put** Adam in His Garden Paradise for a **PURPOSE**: to **cultivate**, **care**, **control**, and **conquer** God's abundant blessings. (2:15; 1:26-30)

"The impulse to work and to make the rest of the creation serve human ends began with the first man's job in Eden." – C. John Collins, Genesis 1–4 (140)

3. God **put** Adam in the Garden Paradise for a **purpose** with a **PARTNER**. (2:18-25)

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; will make a helper suitable for him.'"

"Of such a help the man stood in need, in order that he might fulfill his calling, not only to perpetuate and multiply his race, but to cultivate and govern the earth." – C. F. Keil, and Frank Delitzsch

- The work God gave humanity was very good as long as He was the **CENTER** of everything!

Genesis 2:15-17

In the beginning our work was like God's work: Delightful & satisfying, meaningful & significant, purposeful & strategic!

1. Our **responsibility** in work: *Worship and obey the God who is at work in our work!* (v. 15)
2. Our **liberty** in work: *Enjoy the fruit of our labor in the presence of the God who made it fruitful!* (v. 16)
3. Our **priority** in work and all life: *Trust and obey the LORD who is the KING over ALL!* (v. 17)

Working for the King Changes **EVERYTHING!**

In the beginning, God worked, we worked together under Him over creation, and it was ALL VERY GOOD!

Then one day...

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made." Genesis 3:1