



"God The Worker" - January 4, 2026
Sermon by Pastor Ruthie Seiders

Group Leader Notes

In this message, we explore a powerful biblical idea rooted in the Hebrew word *avodah* — a word that can mean work, labor, worship, and service. From the opening chapter of Scripture, we see God creating with intention and calling His work “good.” And then He creates humanity in His image — not as an afterthought, but as co-workers invited to steward creation and reflect His character in the world. We’ll also confront the reality of thorns and thistles — how the Fall impacts our work — while recovering God’s design: that your work matters, carries dignity, and can be a meaningful part of your calling. In this sermon you’ll hear about: Why “God the Worker” changes how we view our Monday, the meaning of *avodah* (work + worship + service), why there’s no “sacred vs. secular” divide in God’s eyes, and how work gets broken — and how God can redeem it. Practical next steps to close the Sunday-to-Monday gap.

Main Scripture Reading: Genesis 1

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **The Hebrew word “Avodah” connects work, worship, and service.** How does this understanding challenge the way you normally think about your job or daily responsibilities? Where do you see a gap between your Sunday faith and Monday work?
- Pastor Ruthie emphasizes that **there is no sacred/secular divide in God’s eyes** and that all work has dignity. Which parts of your work feel meaningful to God, and which parts feel more like “thorns and thistles”? Why?
- Genesis shows God as a worker who calls his work “good,” even though work became harder after the Fall. **What would it look like for you to offer your work to God this week as an act of worship**, especially in areas that feel frustrating, unnoticed, or exhausting?

Let’s Pray

<https://youtu.be/kUP3Qi8Dacl?si=glwE3rnsXbgLIHTH>

