



"The Formative Power of Work" - January 11, 2026

Sermon by Pastor Tom VanAntwerp

Group Leader Notes

Work isn't just something we do — it's something that forms us. In this message, Pastor Tom VanAntwerp explores how our daily work shapes who we are becoming and how God uses ordinary labor to bring His kingdom into the world. Drawing from Romans 12, Genesis 1, and Jesus' prayer that God's will be done "on earth as it is in heaven," this sermon invites us to see work not as a divide between sacred and secular, but as a primary place of spiritual formation. In this message you'll hear: How work can either form or malform us Why Scripture refuses to separate work from worship How God intends our workplaces to be places where heaven meets earth What it looks like to live an integrated Sunday-to-Monday faith Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Main Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1–2

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **Work as a "thin place":** Pastor Tom suggests that our workplaces can become places where heaven and earth meet. In what ways does that idea challenge how you currently view your work, school, caregiving, or daily responsibilities? Where do you see potential for your "ordinary" work to become spiritually meaningful?
- **Formation vs. Malformation:** Pastor Tom asks whether our work is forming us or malforming us. Can you identify specific ways your work has shaped your character, attitudes, or faith—for better or for worse? What practices might help shift your mindset toward transformation rather than conformity?
- **Bringing God's kingdom into our work:** Jesus prays, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What might it look like for you to live out that prayer in your current work environment? Are there concrete changes—ethical, relational, or practical—you sense God inviting you to make?

Let's Pray

https://youtu.be/8YNLYdQDXwM?si=MMQrtssKZU_pOY9w

