



"Partners" - June 21, 2026
Sermon by Pastor Ruthie Seiders

Group Leader Notes

In her sermon "*Partners*," Pastor Ruthie Seiders takes a "worm's eye view" at Genesis 1–2 and explores God's original design for creation. She highlights the Hebrew word *tov* ("good"), showing how everything God created was intended to bring life, harmony, and flourishing. As image-bearers of God, humans were given the responsibility to work alongside Him as stewards of creation, caring for and cultivating what He made. Pastor Ruthie challenges us to slow down, appreciate the beauty and goodness of God's world, and consider practical ways we can faithfully "partner" with God in caring for His creation. It is good when God's people take seriously the work He has given us to do as His partners in the world.

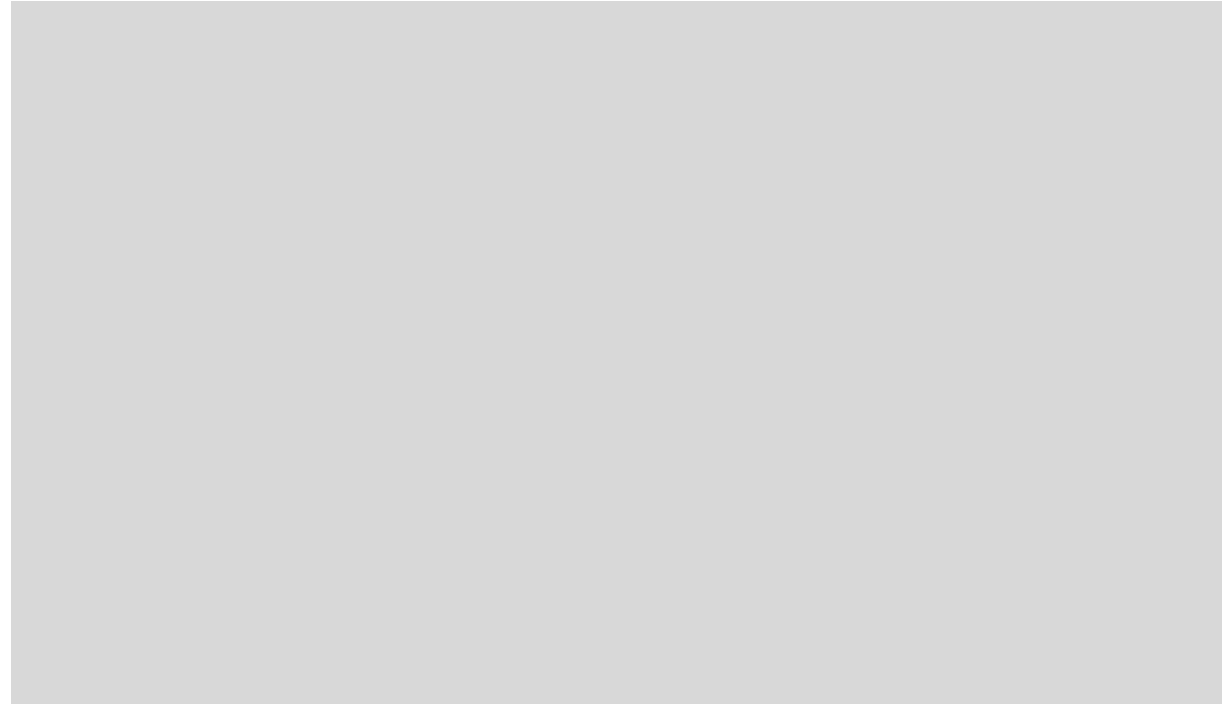
Main Scripture Reading: Genesis 1-2

Group Discussion: Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pastor Ruthie emphasized the Hebrew word *tov* ("good") as something that is life-giving, harmonious, and functioning as God intended.** Where do you see evidence of God's *tov* creation in your life or the world around you?
2. **Genesis teaches that humans are created in God's image and given responsibility to care for creation.** How does viewing yourself as an "image-bearer" and God's co-worker shape the way you think about your daily work, responsibilities, and relationships?
3. **Pastor Ruthie challenged us to slow down and marvel at God's creation rather than rushing past it.** What practices help you notice, appreciate, and worship God through the beauty of creation?
4. **She also described humanity's role as tending, protecting, and wisely stewarding what God has made.** How can Christians faithfully care for God's creation in practical ways as part of their calling to steward what He has made?
5. **The story "Partners" ends with God inviting humanity to work alongside Him in caring for and completing His world.** What is one simple step you could take this week to be a better partner with God in caring for His creation and serving His purposes?

Let's Pray

<https://youtu.be/EJBNKhHoyFo?si=5nMocarZt1oymMtn>



This summer, in our Summer Reading sermon series, we're exploring the grand story of Scripture through the four major acts of the Bible: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation.

We'll see how God has been at work throughout all ages—and how God is at work right now. Along the way, we'll gain more biblical understanding and meaningful, life-shaping applications.

Our hope is that, together, we will:

- Discover joy in reading God's Word
- See the powerful, unified arc of Scripture
- Understand God's redemptive work for all people and all things in Jesus
- Embrace the invitation to join Him in that work today

Click the link below for more.

<https://www.grace.org/summerreading/>