

## Genesis 2:1-17 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—<sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

1. What is your emotional response to work?
2. Look at Genesis 2:5 & 15. Why do you think that man had to work for his food even before the curse in Genesis 3:17-19?
3. How is the work that man does different or the same as the work that God does (Genesis 1:31; Genesis 2:15)?
4. Is work good? Was it good before the fall? Was it good after the fall? Is it good now? Do you think there will be work in the new creation?
5. Do you delight in your work like God delighted in his in Genesis 1:31? Why or why not?
6. Are some types of work better than others? Does the work that you do make you more or less spiritual?
7. Work is referenced in Exodus 20:9, throughout Proverbs, John 5:17, and Ephesians 4:28. Are there other significant scriptures about work that have been important to you?