

Small Groups @ TBC

Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: March 11th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Spirit of Mission: The Creative Spirit

Introduction: This talk explored the way in which the Spirit equips every Christian with desires and abilities that serve God's purposes in the world, specifically the world of work.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Genesis 1:27,28; 2:4-15

Reflect 1:

- What impression do you gain from these readings of the intentions that God had for human beings on his earth? What were they to do and achieve?
- If Adam (and Eve) had been faithful to their calling in these verses how might life on earth have developed? What would life on earth have looked like after (say) 500 years?
- Read the quote from the book Garden City (see below), that David read in the talk. How does this expand our understanding of Adam and Eve's role?
- In what ways does the work that people in the group do, fulfil the command to 'Go Make A World'.

Read: Genesis 3: 17-19 ; Exodus 1:8-14; Ecclesiastes 3:12,13

Reflect 2:

- What view of work do we have in these passages?
- What options are open to a Christian for whom their work is oppressive and who do not 'find satisfaction in their toil'?
- Is there anyone in the group who is under pressure at work? Pause and pray for them before moving on.

Read: John 4:27-34

Reflect 3:

- Food is what gives us energy and keeps us going, so what does Jesus mean, that his food is to do the will of God and finish his work?
- Is there any sense in which your work is your 'food'.
- Do you have a sense that you are 'doing the work that God has given you to do'?
- How is work transformed if we see it as an outworking of our God-given gifts?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

Spend time praying a blessing on people's work (make sure you include those who are not in paid employment, but whose work is voluntary).

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Quote from Garden City

When you think of Eden, don't think of a public park with a lawn, a play-set, and a flower bed or two, where God hands Adam a lawnmower and says, 'keep it tidy, will you?'. Think of an untamed wilderness teeming with beauty, but no infrastructure, no roads, no bridges, no civilisation and God says - **Go make a world.**

Adam wasn't a landscape gardener. He was an explorer, a cartographer, a designer, an architect, a builder, an urban planner, a city-maker, a culture-former.

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