

Series: I Need a Vocation

Scripture and Background Information for June 12-18.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we begin a brand-new series called *"I Need a Vocation."* Whether your work is full-time, part-time, paid, or unpaid, we'll spend a couple of weeks talking about God's plan for work that does more than just "occupy" us during the week.

Background for Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15:

In the beginning God created all things. Genesis 1 gives an account of God's creative work and shows that all aspects of creation were good. On the 6th day (Gen 1:24-31), God filled the earth with creatures and specifically created human beings as a special part of creation that was, "very good," (Gen 1:26-31).

This section of verses begs the questions, "Why did God make humans?" and, "What purpose do they have?" The text provides some guidance for answering these questions since God gives certain commands to humanity that He doesn't give to any other part of creation. Humans are still created beings, but they play a distinct role within the created order.

Genesis 2 gives a complementary account of creation with a more focused view on the creation of humanity. We are given an understanding of how the man and the woman were created and shown how they should relate to each other. God also gives more insight into the purposes of humanity in Genesis 2:15, which states that God puts the man in the garden of Eden and gives him commands on what to do with it.

Both Genesis 1 and 2 can lead to many different theories on when and how God created all things. However, it is important to note that these accounts are meant to really answer, "Who created?" and, "Why did He create?" We know from the Scriptures that God has created all things and that God has a great purpose for all things that He has made, especially humanity. The verses today help us figure out how we can be a part of God's mission within creation through the commands and roles he instills in humanity from the very beginning.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. In Genesis 1:26-28, what are some of the aspects of the creation of humanity that are different from other parts of creation? What do these things tell us about our role within God's will for creation?
2. What images come to mind based on the verbs in Genesis 2:15? What insights can you gain from the imagery that comes from the verbs in this verse? How does Genesis 2:15 relate to Genesis 1:26-28?
3. These verses allude to the responsibility and authority that humans are given over other created things. How does this (or could this) apply to your vocational setting (workplace, family, etc.)? In what way do these verses encourage you in the work you are doing and in what way do they challenge you to be more sensitive to God's will within your vocation?

Note: As Christians, we know that our purpose comes from God because He is our Creator. Furthermore, He has placed us in specific roles and created each of us uniquely so that we would use our specific vocations and gifts to glorify Him. No matter how big or small they may seem, each role is equally vital to God's mission in the world and should be celebrated as such.

If you would like to spend some more time personally learning about and reflecting on finding purpose within whatever vocation you are a part of, one good resource is *Every Good Endeavor* by Tim Keller.