

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

ONE THE CREATION MANDATE

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

Discuss and reflect on how God has created us to be fruitful and take care of creation.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

Where do we see people thriving in our society? Not thriving?

Possible answers: *healthy people, celebrities, socially-confident friends, people with steady jobs*

Leaders note: *You may need to discuss how you define "thriving". Were you able to think of more examples of thriving or not thriving?*

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What are the commands?

Possible answers: *be fruitful, multiply, have dominion over the living things on the earth, work and keep the garden, make disciples, baptize, teach.*

Where do we see people fulfilling these commands as God intended? Not as God intended?

Possible answers: *people caring for God's people, living lives that reflect Christ, sharing the gospel with others.*

Why don't we follow these commands?

Possible answers: *It's messy work, often requires setting aside personal preferences, people don't feel adequately equipped.*

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How does this passage/discussion fit into the story of the Gospel?

Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

**How is the gospel reflected in the creation story?
Why does this matter to us today as believers?**

Considering the circles we're in, how can we be a faithful presence to encourage thriving?

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you stop, start, change, or continue.

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?