

FLOURISHING IN GRAD SCHOOL  
WEEK 9: MADE FOR WORK

*"I am not what I do. I do what I am" - Miles Davis*

GENESIS 1: 26 - 28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup> So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Read the passage out loud together. Give everyone five or so minutes on their own to review it. Invite study members to note things that stand out and add a comment or question about it on their sheet.

### Discussion Questions

These verses come at the end of Genesis 1. After creating everything else, God creates human beings. What do these verses tell us about who and why we are?

What do you think it means to be imago Dei — the image of God — in the world? How does this make you feel? About yourself and those around you?

According to this passage, human beings have been made to rule over creation. What images come to mind when you think of rulers throughout history? Do these images look like God? In what ways have our earthly models been distorted by sin? What impact does this have on your willingness to lead or rule?

Since the call to rule came before sin (chapter 3), there must be a way to rule in a godly fashion. What might this look like? How can we rule to the glory of God?

In the previous verses in Genesis 1, God looks at all he has made and calls it good, but he also invites human beings to fill the earth and subdue it — to continue the good work he has begun. How should this passage influence the ways we think about and do our work? In what ways are you “subduing the earth” to the glory of God?

A few weeks ago, we talked about rest. We are created with the need for rest AND for work. How do these passages help us keep the two in proper relationship, proper perspective?

Are there other things from the passage you want to comment on or ask about?

Spend a few minutes filling in the table below. When you are finished, discuss these final questions together and then pray for one another and for this group. Human beings were made to work. It is part of what it means to be made in the image of God. How does this impact your understanding of your work? What does it mean to represent God in your field? (a few weeks ago, we talked about rest. We are created with the need for rest AND for work. How do these passages help us keep the two in proper relationship/ perspective?)

<i>What does it mean to you to work as an image bearer?</i>	<i>How does it feel to represent God in your field?</i>