

## Reflection Questions: Genesis 1:1-2:3

For the message, “In the Beginning, There was Work (And It Was Good)” given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on June 10, 2018

---

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city’s life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Genesis 1:1 & 1:26-2:3

A summary of the message: The Scriptures invites us into a story of reality in which God himself is viewed as a worker who masterfully created the world and who designed humans to work as well. And that work was a good thing.

Key Points:

- God matters. You matter. And your work matters.

Key Quotes:

- Psalm 8, “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet...”
- Phillip James Bailey, “Let every man think himself an act of God...”
- John Calvin, “...before sin entered the world...it was necessary for people to occupy themselves with some work. Why? Because it was against our nature to be useless blocks of wood.”
- Woody Allen, “The universe is indifferent...so we create a fake world for ourselves, and we exist in that fake world...a world that, in fact, means nothing at all, when you step back. It’s meaningless. But it’s important that we create some sense of meaning, because no perceptible meaning exists for anybody.”

Bottom Line:

- Human life comes with a built-in purpose to live fully before God in every area of life—including work.
- 

### QUESTIONS

#### **1. Let’s think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- How have you tended to view your work? As a means to an end (the weekend or vacation or retirement)? A way to pay the bills? A necessary evil? A blessing? Your identity? Explain.
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 = very hard, 10 = very easy), how easy is it for you to grasp that your work matters in the big scheme of things? Discuss.

- How would your life look differently if you were to really live out the message of this text, namely, that God matters, you matter, and your work matters? What if anything would change?
- Why might God be bringing this to your attention at this season of your life?

**2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- In light of this text, what would it look like if our community of faith embraced the idea that our everyday work actually matters? What kind of employers / employees / workers would our church be known for?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message that God matters, we matter, and that our work matters?

**3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- How does this text challenge the thinking of our city when it comes to work?
- Read the above quote by Woody Allen, and then answer the question, "How does this text serve as Good News for those who are outside the faith?"

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- Lord, I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_.
- God, help me to believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus, help me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_.