

LESSON 1A

GOD, THE WORKER

OBJECTIVES

During this Lesson you will:

1. find the first example in the Bible of a perfect prototype for all workers.
2. name this prototype.
3. describe how he matches each of the four points of our biblical definition of work.
4. name some facets of God's work that bring glory to him.



This super diamond illustrates the brilliance and beauty of God's work. In this Lesson we will be considering this.

1. We have already seen that the Bible has quite a lot to tell us about work. But in which part of the Bible should we begin our lesson?

Read Matthew 19:3-6. In discussing marriage breakdowns the Pharisees started with the problem, divorce. But where did Jesus start?

With the creation story

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2. So let's follow the Lord Jesus' example and turn to the creation story as we start our lesson on work.
 - a) What had God just completed, according to Gen.2:2?
 - b) So in what role do we see God in the first two chapters of Genesis?

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- a) His work of creation
 - b) As a worker

3. The very first of God's roles described in the Bible is that of a worker! How is God's work of creation described in Psalm 8:3 and Psalm 19:1? Discuss the meaning of these terms.

The creation is described as "the work of God's fingers" or "the work of his hands". These terms emphasize that God is a wonderful craftsman. Of course this does not mean that God literally has a body with hands and fingers. In actual fact God, being Spirit, created everything by speaking (Gen.1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24 and 26).

4. But the Bible has more to tell us on this subject!
What are the terms used to describe God's work in each of the following verses? Psalms 92:5; 111:7; 139:14; 145:6 and Ecclesiastes 3:11a.

Great, faithful, just, wonderful, powerful, awesome, beautiful.

5. But the highest evaluation of the work of creation comes from God himself, as he completed each stage. (Remember, this was before the entrance of sin). What was his assessment (Gen.1:12,18,21,25 and 31)?

God saw that it was good. Everything he made was perfect; there was no shoddy workmanship here!

6. What kind of God could have created such a universe? See Psalms 104:24 and 111:6.

Only a God of infinite wisdom and power.

7. Who then is the perfect prototype for all workers and where can we find the first account of his work?

God himself and we find the account of his work of creation in Genesis, which is a perfect model for all workers.

8. If God is the prototype for workers, we can expect him to exemplify our biblical definition of work perfectly; so let's recap. What are the four points in our biblical definition of work?

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- 1) The expenditure of energy
 - 2) Brings fulfillment to the worker
 - 3) Brings benefit to others
 - 4) Brings glory to God

WORK REQUIRES THE EXPENDITURE OF ENERGY.

9. The word “energy” comes from “ergon”, the Greek word for “work”. This is the word used for God’s work in Gen.2:2 (in the Greek version). There is no doubt that God expended energy in his work of creation. What word in Psalms 111:6 and 145:4 points to this expenditure of energy?

Power.

10. One of the ways in which we can appreciate the energy that God put into his creation is when we see his power unleashed in nature. Read, for example, Psalm 107:24-32 and note how v.24 speaks about “the works of the Lord”.

- a) In what way did God manifest his power through his works here?
- b) What are some of the lessons these people learnt?
- c) What lessons can we learn in our daily lives from the vision of God’s mighty energy and power in nature?

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- a) Through a frightening tempest at sea.
 - b)
 - They learnt that their strength was nothing against God’s: “their courage melted away” (v.26).
 - They learnt to turn to God as the only one with power to help them: “they cried out to the Lord in their trouble” (v.28).
 - They learnt to give thanks and praise for God’s protection (vv.29-32).
 - c) Personal answers.

WORK BRINGS FULFILLMENT TO THE WORKER

11. Now let’s turn to the second point in our definition: this expenditure of energy must bring fulfillment to the worker, or what we call “job satisfaction”.

- a) What word in Gen. 1 did God use repeatedly to show that he was satisfied with his work of creation?
- b) What is the phrase in Psalm 104:31 that confirms to us that God’s work brings him satisfaction and fulfillment?

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- a) The word “good”.
 - b) May the Lord rejoice in his works.

WORK BRINGS BENEFIT TO OTHERS

12. But God did not make the world only for his own good pleasure.

- a) Genesis 2:8 tells how he made a garden. For whose benefit was this?
- b) Consider the perfect balance in nature: the distance of the sun giving just the right heat for us to live, the weight of the air, perfect for our lives (contrast this with the weightlessness of those who go into outer space!) For whose benefit did God principally make the world?

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- a) Adam’s
 - b) The human race

WORK BRINGS GLORY TO GOD

13. But there remains the most important factor of all in God's work.
- a) What does God's work of creation declare to us? (Psalm 19:1)
 - b) How has sinful man failed to appreciate God's glory in his creation? (Rom. 1:20-23)

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- a) His glory.
 - b) God's creative work declares his glory, i.e. reveals his invisible qualities, eternal power and divine nature (v.20). But sinful man has failed to glorify him as God (v.21); has even exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images etc. (v.23).

14. TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT.

We must not fall into this trap. Look back to the opening picture, that of a most beautiful diamond, cut and polished to perfection by an expert craftsman. Each polished surface, called a facet, reflects the light in flashes of brilliant color; even if one were missing, the diamond would be incomplete and imperfect. This diamond is like God's work; so great, faithful, just, wonderful, powerful, awesome and breathtakingly beautiful. Each of these facets brings glory to God. Through God's work, we come to know him better and to praise him more.

Why not pause for a moment to offer prayerful worship to him from your heart for his handy work!