



God's Garden Keepers

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Gates** (*Red Rocks Worship*)
- **His Name is Jesus** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **Awake My Soul** (*Hillsong Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Genesis 1:26-27
2. I Peter 1:22
3. Genesis 1:28-30

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by thanking God and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

What's one piece of technology you use daily that didn't exist when you were a child? How has it changed your life for better or worse?

Sermon Overview

The sermon explores how we navigate rapid technological change while maintaining what matters most: our relationship with God, meaningful connections with people, life purpose, and a nurturing environment. Through Genesis 1:26-30, we discover timeless principles for living as God's image-bearers in an increasingly digital world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Section 1: Our Relationship with God

Read Genesis 1:26-27

1. Pastor Brian said, “I don’t become fully human unless I’m fully reflecting God.” What does this mean practically in your daily life?
2. How have you been tempted to look at technology for what only God can provide (fulfillment, companionship, answers to life’s big questions)?
3. The sermon mentioned that “Glass screens without God are like Sour Patch Kids—really tasty at the beginning and really boring at the end.” Can you share a time when you experienced this truth?

Section 2: Our Relationship with People

Read I Peter 1:22

4. In what ways has technology enhanced your relationships? In what ways has it hindered them?
5. How much time do you spend in “digital space” versus face-to-face community? What adjustments might you need to make?
6. The sermon states that “local communities . . . are going to continue to become a precious commodity in the digital age.” How can our small group be intentional about creating this kind of deep community.

Section 3: Our Purpose & Stewardship

Read Genesis 1:28-30

7. Pastor Brian asked: “If you didn’t have to work for money, what are the things you enjoy that add value to people around you that you’d still do?” Take turns answering this question.
8. What does it look like to use your creations, accomplishments, or work to point people to God rather than glorify yourself?
9. How can we maintain a sense of purpose in a world where technology and AI may replace certain jobs or tasks?

Section 4: Our Relationship with Our Environment

10. The sermon presented two lies: “humans are a cancer to the planet” (left) and “we own it and can do whatever we want” (right). How does Genesis 1 give us a balanced, biblical view of environmentalism?
11. What does it mean practically to “love the planet like the Creator loves His planet?”

12. Pastor Brian mentioned the biological and spiritual benefits of staying connected to nature. When was the last time you intentionally spent time outside, away from screens? What was that experience like?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **We are created in God's image** to reflect Him in all areas of life.
2. **Four essential relationships** shape our humanity: with God, with people, with our purpose, and with our environment.
3. **Technology is a tool**, not a replacement for God or meaningful relationships.
4. **Moral boundaries matter** in how we develop and use our creations.
5. **We are co-creators and stewards**, called to help both humanity and nature prosper together.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

For your relationship with God:

- Take a 24-hour "tech Sabbath"—no screens, just time with God, family, and nature
- Replace 15 minutes of daily screen time with Bible reading and prayer

For your relationship with People:

- Schedule an in-person coffee or meal with someone you usually only text or message
- Implement a "no phones" rule during family meals or quality time.
- Ask three people the deeper questions: How are you really doing? What's inspiring you? What challenges are you facing?

For your Purpose:

- Write down your answer to the question: "What would I do even if I didn't get paid for it?"
- Identify one way your current work or activities can point people to God.
- Volunteer for one activity this month that uses your gifts to bless others.

For your Environment:

- Spend 30 minutes outside in nature this week without your phone.
- Research one way to be more environmentally responsible (reduce waste, sustainable choices, etc.) and implement it.
- Create a more nurturing physical environment in your home (plants, natural light, reduce clutter).

Group Accountability Questions:

1. What is one specific action you'll take this week based on today's discussion?
2. Who will you share this commitment with for accountability?
3. How can the group pray for you as you implement these changes?

Reflection & Prayer Requests

Read together:

"No matter how far into the digital future we travel, we'll never outgrow our need for God, people, purpose, and a nurturing environment."

Final Question: Which of these four needs (God, people, purpose, environment) feels most neglected in your life right now? How will you prioritize it this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, asking God to:

- Help us use technology as a tool without letting it replace Him.
- Deepen our face-to-face relationships and community.
- Clarify our purpose as His image-bearers and co-creators.
- Give us wisdom to steward His creation with love and responsibility.
- Keep us grounded in what matters most, even as the world changes rapidly.

For Next Week

Preparation: Reflect on how your week went. Be ready to share one success and one challenge in implementing what you learned.

Optional reading: Genesis 2:4-15 (God placing humanity in the garden to work it and take care of it).