



# Seed Redemptive Design Tool

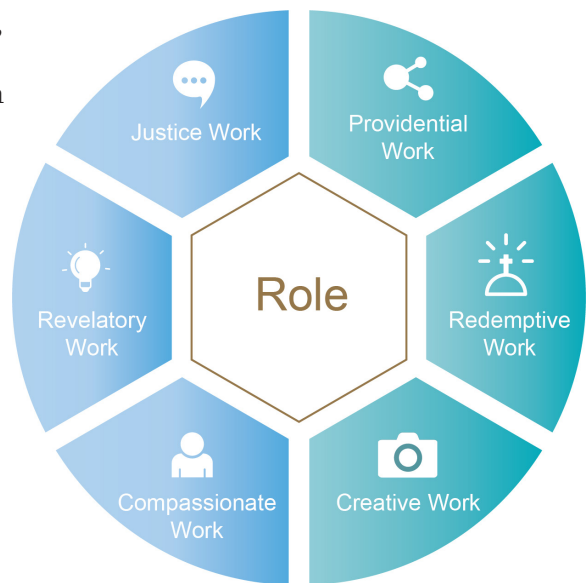
## Robert Banks' Six Strands Of Work

Our God-given purpose connects to our context, but in order to fully understand this connection we must first understand the ways that our own work connects with God's work in the world.

Robert Banks, in his book titled "Faith Goes To Work" says:

"Few Christians see their daily work as directly connected to the calling and purposes of God. Those who do see a relationship often have only a partial awareness of the way the two are linked."

What we do on a day-to-day basis is deeply connected to the purposes of God. Banks outlines 6 aspects of God's work that intersect with our work. (see diagram). Each strand of Banks' theory on God's Work is reflective of the character of God. Let's spend some time unpacking each strand of God's Work and understanding how they fit into our context.



### PROVIDENTIAL WORK

"The work of divine providence includes all that God does to maintain the universe and human life in orderly and beneficial fashion."

Providential Work is the framework of our society. It's work that keeps us moving forward for without it society would stop functioning. Providential work is about seeing to the needs that affect all. From the garbage collector through to the electricity provider to the cleaner of your office building, these roles play a significant role in keeping things going. We see this also in the entrepreneur who by starting a new business, creates jobs.





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### REDEMPTIVE WORK

“God’s saving activity rightly has priority in any discussion of divine work. Everything God does revolves around this.”

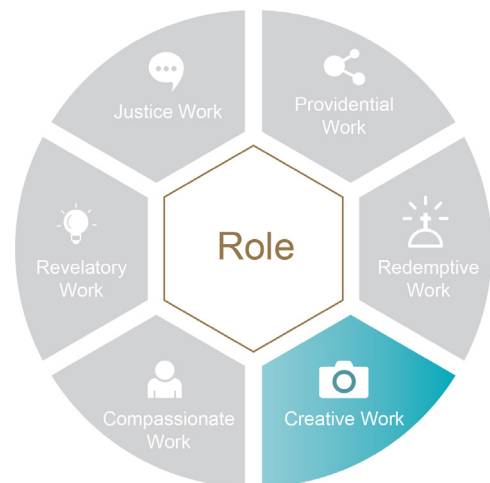
At the centre of everything is God’s Redemptive work in the world. We typically relegate this work to the Pastors and Evangelists of our day and whilst they do amazing work, we often leave it only to the pastors and evangelists to carry out this work. We incorrectly assume that one must receive a divine calling to God’s Redemptive Work. But when we look to examples like C.S. Lewis, we see that God’s Redemptive Work can and is played out in our everyday. It’s found in the film maker’s movie with themes of faith, hope and love. It’s found in the social worker’s deep care for their cases. It’s present in the counsellor bringing reconciliation to a broken marriage. In each of these cases God’s Redemptive Work is active.



### CREATIVE WORK

“Though we are not able to create something completely out of nothing, we are able to imitate God in this respect. Our creative work is possible because God has planted within us the capacity to create.”

We often view creativity as solely unique to the Arts and this area of work certainly allows artists the space and time to fully immerse themselves into the creative process. But creativity is much wider and broader than we think. A town planner requires creativity to plan and craft a town. A builder needs a level of creative flair in order to understand and interpret plans, creating something that existed only in 2D format into a 3D home. “Any occupation or activity that has a touch of originality about it reflects something of God’s creative work.”





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### COMPASSIONATE WORK

“In linking God’s activity here with it’s human counterpart, one thinks immediately of the helping professions”

Compassionate Work will bring to mind professions such as nurses, doctors, paramedics, therapists etc. These professions capture the compassionate heart of God in helping those who are unable to help themselves. This area of work also includes those who perform such tasks on a part-time, casual or volunteer basis.



### REVELATORY WORK

“This is a fundamental dimension of God’s work, without which we would not know anything about what God has done.”

Revelatory Work describes the occupations where wisdom and enlightenment are provided. The obvious professions that fall in this category are teachers and preachers, but the same can be said of writers, journalists, parents etc. Any profession where wisdom or knowledge is passed from one to another.





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## TEAR Group Study

### JUSTICE WORK

“Though God’s justice goes beyond giving people their fair and equal redress or due, and though human justice constantly fails to live up to this standard, there is valid connection between the two.”

Justice Work seeks to provide justice in the world. This is anything from lawyers and judges to activists and missionaries. It can apply in some sense to almost any role, as we see and experience the brokenness that injustice brings in all sectors of society. It applies particularly to roles where people seek to avoid discrimination and take action towards a more equal and fair way of living.

