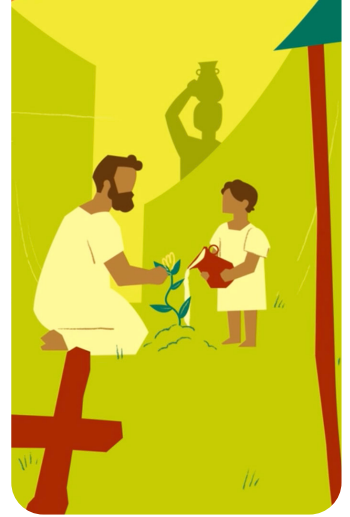




'Avad / Serve, Work

Transcript

'Avad.

"Yahweh Elohim took and placed the human in the garden of Eden to 'avad it and keep it."

In biblical Hebrew, 'avad means to work or to serve. It can refer to work that leads to flourishing, like when God invites humanity to 'avad in the garden, to cultivate and care for it.

Similarly, the Israelite priests 'avad in the tabernacle or temple by serving God and others.

But 'avad can also refer to humiliating, backbreaking toil, like when the Israelites are forced to 'avad the Pharaoh in brutal slavery.

So 'avad can feel like slavery or like freedom and flourishing. It all depends on who you 'avad. God rescues the Israelites so that they can 'avad him through life-giving work.

"When you bring the people out of Egypt, you will 'avad Elohim on this mountain."