

"YOUR WORK MATTERS TO GOD"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: To understand that in our work we are laboring together with God.

Life Group Leader Preparation:

John 15:1-5,7-8 – Our work becomes the field of ministry where God can cause us to be most productive... be fruitful and multiply.

Psalms 149:4 – For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people...

Interesting Facts?

About one-third or 30 percent of human life is spent working. The average working week in the United States consists of 40 hours of work. Most people take a few holidays every year. On an average, most people spend about 25 to 30 years working.

What Percentage of Our Lives Are Spent Working? | Reference.com

<https://www.reference.com/math/percentage-lives-spent-working-599e3f7fb2c88fca>

Do you think your work matters to God?

A woman who works at a supermarket checkout counter writes: “I feel that my job consists of a lot more than ringing up orders, taking people's money, and bagging their groceries.... By doing my job well, I know I have a chance to do God's work too. Because of this, I try to make each of my customers feel special. While I'm serving them, they become the most important people in my life.” Copyright © by Pat McHenry Sullivan

- The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15
- You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Psalm 128:2
- For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.” Isaiah 41:13
- For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

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- But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” John 5:17
- So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

It is an honor to be used by God - we are co-workers in God’s service

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)

Maybe you’re retired or serve as a volunteer.....how does your work matter to God?

Week #1: Your Work Matters to God

Group Discussion Question: ***Do you think your work matters to God?***

Much of the work of the ministry according to God’s plan takes place in the workplace. The workplace accounts for 40 to 75% of our time; therefore it is a huge field for ministry opportunity.

You may think I’m not a Minister, according to Ephesians 4:12 -13 ...”to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

All believers are not called in a sense of ministry, but we are all called to:

Mark 16:15-17 – Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And the signs will accompany those who believe.....NIV

Your work becomes the common connection point to partner with God’s purpose in the earth.

“For it is God, which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philipians 2:13

Since we spend so much time at work.... what are some ways that you think your work matters to God?

- Income
- Sharing the Gospel
- Meeting personal needs
- Even in school – you’re at school to finish what you start...complete what you started
- Caring for others, if it’s volunteer work....
- Sharing with people....
- To be in the present.... just to hear and listen... (don’t neglect others)
- Advise through the hard times
- Using your (Christian) words (the world is so negative)

Let’s be honest – Discussion? In your own words how does your work matter to God?

Week # 2: For It is God that Works in You

Group Discussion Questions: Are you casting all your cares on the Lord?

Difficult times can make it hard to deal with other people, especially at work; or to remember that “your work matters to God”

- Excellent time to forget about yourselves and concentrate on Him
- Great time to share how faith in God works; or a time when you were tested
- I Peter 5:7- Casting the whole of your care upon Him, all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all on Him; He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully. Amp
- God can work in spite of.... but how about we co-labor with Him?

How does your work contribute to what God wants done in the world?

- *Your work becomes the field of ministry where your human potential is fully developed and exploited.*
- *Your work becomes the field of ministry where God can cause you to be most productive... fruitful and multiply.*

Let's be honest – Discussion?

How is God developing your potential, as a believer at your workplace?

Your work is the easiest way and easiest place to be productive in the kingdom of God. – Bishop Ed Smith

Week #3: Your Work Matters to God... When Your Work Matters to You

Group Discussion Question: ***What do you see in the lives of the people you work with, work around or attend school with?***

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matt 9:36-38

What do you do when your work matters to you?

1. Prepare yourself like you would any other task you take seriously.
2. Embrace an attitude of faithfulness and excellence to ensure success.
3. Personal Workplace Readiness.

1. Does your personal life/character reflect Godly behavior?

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2. Does the quality of your work shine bright enough to cause those in your workplace to glorify God for the work you do?
3. The day you see the needs of people in the work/marketplace is the day your ministry is born.
4. Do you have personal bible study skills and habits?
5. Do you know how to pray to get results?

Week #4: As unto the Lord – Does your work glorify God?

Discussion Question: Are the ways, in which, you work and your motives God-honoring?

For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12)

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” – Col. 3:23

- Share a time when this scripture had “real” meaning to you.
 - Co-worker or supervisor treated you unfairly
 - Ungodly situations at the workplace?
 - Asked to do something ungodly by a boss or supervisor
 - Led by the Holy Spirit to speak or confront a co-worker or supervisor?

I Cor. 10:31 – So then, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you may do, do all for the honor and glory of God – Amp

At times, we will need to “take courage” in the face of ungodly situations.

2 Thess. 3:13 “continue in well doing without weakening”

Let’s be honest – Discussion: Have you ever had to change your mindset/behavior to obey God and to maintain godly behavior at your work?