

The Calling... to be a disciple throughout the week

Welcome

What do we mean by work?

How do we think God feels about work?

Word

Consider what scripture says about:

- Work, and rest from work
- Being co-workers with God
- Work not always seeming enjoyable
- Jesus' encounters with people in their work
- It wasn't just priests, prophets and kings who had a good job
- God works too

Worship

Reflect on:

Colossians 3 v22 - 4 v1 (Working as for the Lord)

Witness

Do your beliefs or faith influence the kind of work you do?

Does your faith make a difference to how you feel about what you actually do day-to-day?

Do you see your job or role as a vocation?

What is the biggest challenge to your daily discipleship? How can it be overcome?



“...if we restrict our discipleship to special religious times, the majority of our waking hours will be isolated from the manifest presence of the kingdom in our lives.”

(Dallas Willard)

This is extracted from 'Faith at Work' which can be found at www.faithatwork.info



Welcome Word Worship Witness

The Challenge... remaining faithful

Welcome

What's the largest or most scary challenge you've ever faced?
What do you think are the main challenges we face?

Word

Reflect on:

Luke 19 v1-9 Zacchaeus - his challenge: being a tax collector with integrity. Mark 10 v17-22 The rich young ruler-challenged about his priorities in "life". Also take a look at Luke 9 v23 and Hosea 6 v6.

Worship

Will you...
come and follow me...
go where you don't know...
leave yourself behind...
risk the hostile stare...
love the 'you' you hide...
quell the fear inside...
use the faith you've found...
...If I but call your name?

Taken from 'The Summons'© 1987 WGRG, Iona Community - used with permission

Witness

How can we support those we know, as they face up to both personal and collective challenges? How do we find support in our own challenges?

Note how many times you say (to yourself and others) "I'm busy"
Reflect on whether it's said or perceived positively or negatively.

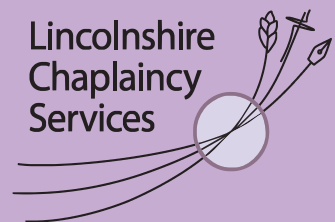


“...Be who God meant you to be & you will set the world on fire” (Catherine of Siena)

“...Take up your cross and follow me” (Jesus)

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Lincolnshire
Chaplaincy
Services



Welcome Word Worship Witness

The Clock... ticks on - How do we fit it all in?

Welcome

What would your most effective time saving be?

How busy are you?

What did you discover about the times you've said "I'm busy"?

Word

Reflect on:

Ecclesiastes 3 v1-15 Ancient wisdom for a modern problem!

Two men chopped wood near each other for a whole day. One man chopped constantly without any breaks. The second rested for 10 minutes each hour. At the end of the day, when everything was checked and counted, the second man had chopped more wood. Puzzled, the first man asked how this had happened. "It's simple", said the second man, "whenever I rested, I sharpened my axe".

Worship

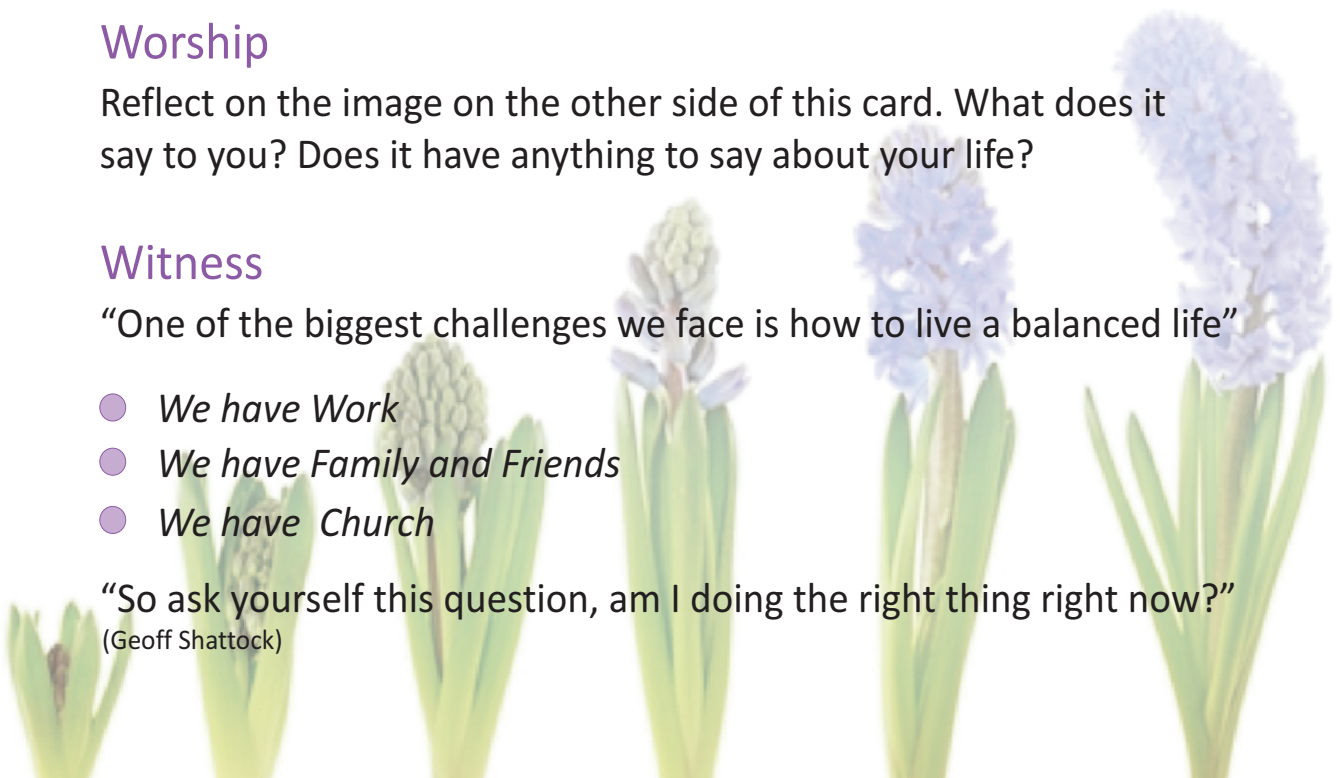
Reflect on the image on the other side of this card. What does it say to you? Does it have anything to say about your life?

Witness

"One of the biggest challenges we face is how to live a balanced life"

- We have Work
- We have Family and Friends
- We have Church

"So ask yourself this question, am I doing the right thing right now?"
(Geoff Shattock)





“...There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”

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Welcome Word Worship Witness

The Moral Compass... keeping integrity

Welcome

How do you decide which actions to take and which not to take?
How do you choose which causes to stand up for, which to leave to someone else, and which don't need bothering with?

Word

Reflect on:

Matthew 5 v13-16 You are to be salt and light

Also take a look at John 1 v5 The light shines in the darkness.

Are these a call to us?

Worship

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? You are the light of the world. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp-stand and it gives light to all in the house. Each of us is called by Christ to work together in carrying forward the mission of the Church in God's world. Will you stand firm and witness to your faith in Christ both by the words you speak and the actions you take?

With the help of God, I will.

Where are you specifically called to be salt and light?

Witness

"To be really controversial - the church as a whole doesn't stand up and be counted as a community - [it] doesn't stand up for things that are important - issues such as working life, leisure, politics (they say politics & religion don't mix) - but there are things we should be willing to stand and be counted as, a Christian." (Vera) **How can you respond to this?**



“...God as spirit is everywhere present creating and sustaining all things and all people. His love is constantly seeking a response, but each one is free to respond or be deaf to his call, and not all people respond.”

(Margaret Kane)

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Welcome Word Worship Witness

Connections... we're all in this together

Welcome

What will you take away from this course? What's challenged you? What's encouraged you?

How 'joined up' is your life? How 'joined up' should it be? What (new) connections could you make in your daily life?

Word

Reflect on:

1 Corinthians 12 v12-26 Unity in diversity

How do your Monday to Saturday activities link in with your Sunday activities? Should they? If there aren't any links, is that through personal choice?

Worship

As Peter Scholte's well-known hymn reminds us, 'we are one in the spirit, called to work with each other side by side and walk with each other hand in hand'. We are human because we belong, participate, and share.

Prayerfully imagine the church where you most regularly worship...

...the surrounding village/town/area...

...our nation...

...the whole of God's world...

See them and pray for them.

'The kingdom of God is creation healed, the glory of God is humans fully alive.'

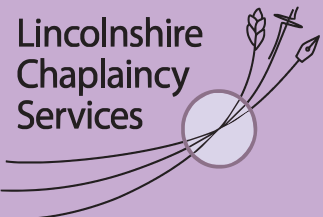
Witness

Spend some time thinking about what you've learned during the course. Choose at least one thing and turn it into an action to respond to.



“...I am because you are”

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Welcome Word Worship Witness

Faith at Work...

Spirituality & discipleship for today's world...

- The **Calling** - to be a disciple throughout the week
- The **Challenge** - remaining faithful despite everything
- The **Clock** - ticks on - how do we fit it all in?
- The **Moral Compass** - how do we keep our integrity?
- Showing **Compassion** - spirituality in action
- Making **Connections** - we're all in this together

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Opening Prayer

Lord God, who has made us all into one body in Christ, enable us to honour one another in our working and daily lives. Help us understand the ways in which we depend upon one another. Teach us to bear one another's burdens and share one another's joy. In our varied occupations enable us to serve one another with dignity and carefulness.

May we receive with gratitude the work of other people.

So continue your work of binding us together in your human family.

Amen.

(John Ogden)

Theme Prayer

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands on earth but yours,

No feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he goes about to do good,

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world,

Yours are the hands,

Yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes,

You are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen.

(St Teresa of Avila)

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Welcome Word Worship Witness

Compassion... spirituality in action

Welcome

Identify the greatest act of compassion you have received
What do you understand by the term 'compassion'?

Word

Reflect on:

Matthew 25 v31-46 The parable of the sheep and goats

What place does compassion have in our fast-paced world?

Should/could there be more compassion than we currently see?

How human are we without compassion?

How far would we go to benefit another?

What are the consequences of acting compassionately?

Worship

Creator God, give us the gift of understanding and a compassionate heart. Help us to remember that we're made in your image, and each and every person is special to you, regardless of position or ability. Help us when we find it difficult to be compassionate with some of those with whom we live and work. Give us wisdom to get a right balance between compassion & the 'rules' of where we work or live, along with the insight to see beyond the job or role and learn to value the person.

Lord, teach us to be Christ-like.

Amen.

Witness

"Who is my neighbour? In serving each other, my neighbours are all around the world. Look at the shoes you wear, the car you drive, your phone, the food you eat..." (Clive)

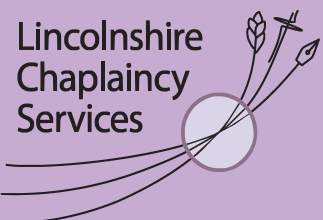
Who is **YOUR** neighbour?



“...When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.”

(Henri Nouwen)

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Welcome Word Worship Witness