

Sacred SPACES

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK TWO: "WORK" | MULTIPLE SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

This series is about taking Jesus into the places of our life with intentionality. It will focus our church on the truth that we shouldn't view some things as sacred and others as secular. It is to challenge the idea that those in ministry are doing the real work, while those not in ministry are just settling for second place. In Jesus, we're all part of a sacred priesthood. Donald Tabb, The Chapel's Pastor Emeritus, would say, "You are either a missionary or a mission field." The Apostle Peter said it this way: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9)." While the Apostle Paul would say it this way: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God (1 Cor. 5:20)."

ICE BREAKER

Where do you work? How many hours a week do you spend at work? How much of that time do you spend interacting with people?

Leaders, this can be a good way to introduce the topic. This will also give you a good feel for the type of work environments that your group works in. Depending on the type of job someone has and the amount of involvement one has with people, can change the amount of emphasis you put on God's purpose for man to work and the workplace being a great place to establish relationships with the hope of sharing the Gospel.

THIS WEEK

The average full-time worker in America spends 47 hours a week at one's workplace. With so much time spent at one's job, our fellow co-workers are some of the people that we will have the most frequent opportunities to express our faith through how we work and the relationships we make.

SCRIPTURE – 1 Peter 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 6:5-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before diving into scripture, how does your faith shape the way you approach your workplace?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does this verse tell us about our identity? What responsibility do we have?

3. How can we walk in our identity and fulfill our responsibilities during our time at work?
 - Read Colossians 3:17. How does this passage challenge the believer to view his work? How can this help fulfill our responsibilities to “proclaim the excellencies of Christ?”

 - Read Ephesians 6:5-9. How does this passage relate to our relationships with our fellow workers? How does Paul encourage both the bondservant and the master to interact with each other? How can this approach to our fellow workers open doors for conversations about the Gospel?

4. Which do you find more challenging: Working as unto the Lord at your workplace or interacting with your co-workers by reflecting the Gospel in word and deed? Why is it so difficult?

5. What are some practical steps that you can take this month to live out your faith through your work and with your co-workers?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Your workplace is more than just a way to provide for your family, but it is a sacred place. God calls us to proclaim the Gospel both through the way we work and with the people whom we work with. Wherever you work, God has placed you there to act as an ambassador for him as you represent Him through word and deed.

APPLICATION

- **ADJUST ONE'S VIEW OF WORK:** Confess and repent of the ways that you have compartmentalized your faith and not allowed work to be a sacred place. Pray for God to change your view of work.
- **PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES:** Spend time praying for opportunities to invite people to join your church community and for you to share your faith.
- **REACH OUT TO YOUR CO-WORKERS:** 82% of unchurched people would come to church this Sunday if a friend invited them. Look to invite your co-workers to church on Sunday morning or to your community group next week.