



Next Week's Life Group: In ALL You Do:
The PREPARATION of Work

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to ***following, being changed by,*** and ***on mission*** with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.*



In ALL You Do

*Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for men.*

Colossians 3:23

Getting Started:

What was the first paying job you had and why did you take it?

Story Background:

In spite of some opinions, work is not a result of the fall. Rather, it is part of the created order and the fabric of man's relationship with God. After creating man, God placed him in the Garden of Eden and gave him the job of gardener and animal keeper (Genesis 2:15). It was in this context that Adam had fellowship with God.

We get a glimpse of God's purposes for man's work and how He enables it by studying the building of the tabernacle. God called gifted craftsmen to build the tabernacle placing the source and nature of their skills firmly in the spiritual realm. The skill of these men was a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The Spirit gave them wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all kinds of craftsmanship (Exodus 31:1-11). Paul reinforces the call to work by commanding Thessalonian believers to not associate with undisciplined believers who involve themselves in other people's business, but don't themselves perform any productive work (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).

Our passage today is part of the Olivet Discourse: a body of teaching given to the disciples by Jesus prior to sharing his final Passover meal with them. After informing them of things to come related to judgement, tribulation, and His second coming, Jesus begins to teach them how they should live lives faithful to their calling while they await his return.

The PURPOSE of Work



Story/Passage: Matthew 25:14-30



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What criteria did the master in the parable use to distribute his wealth to the slaves?
 - What did the master expect of the slaves in his absence?
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Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Why was the slave who received only one talent chastised and removed from the presence of the master?
 - What has influenced your work ethic? How does your work ethic compare to the truth about work that we find in this passage and the background passages?
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Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- What changes do you need to make in view of God's design and purposes of work?
 - How does knowing the gifts and abilities you have are a result of the Holy Spirit working in you throughout your life time, change the way you think about and execute your work?
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