



Work as Worship

Your Work Matters to God



Leader Check-in

Do you currently see your work as worship? Why or why not? What do you hope to get out of this series?

Discover

Describe what you do (not just your title, but the activity) for work.

Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15 & 20. Had you ever considered that “work” was a part of God’s good (pre-fall) creation? Why is this significant?

Read Exodus 31:3-6. What stands out to you about this passage? Consider your own work in light of this passage. Check all that apply.

- ☐ Do you make the earth, its resources, or its people more fruitful (productive, efficient)?
- ☐ Do you manage (rule over) the earth, its resources or its people?
- ☐ Do you take care of (tend) the natural processes of God’s creation?
- ☐ Do you use your creativity to name (organize, describe) the elements of God’s creation?
- ☐ Do you use God-given skill to design or craft things?

Fully Own

How would you describe the word worship? How might your understanding of worship need to change so that you can better understand your work as worship?

Read Colossians 3:17. How are you tempted to compartmentalize your faith into spiritual time at church and “normal” life during the rest of the week?

Imagine for a moment that the author of Exodus 31 was describing YOU and the work God has created you to do. Then, fill in the blanks accordingly and share with the group:

See, I have chosen _____, and I have filled him/her with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills--

_____.

and to engage in _____.

Challenge

Begin each day this week with a simple prayer: “Let my work today be an answer to someone’s prayer.”





Work as Worship

Performance and Attitude



Leader Check-in

How did you see God answering prayers through your work this week?

Discover

Share about a time when your integrity was challenged in a work environment. What happened? What did you learn from this experience?

Divide into 4 groups to study the following passages. Select a spokesperson to share a summary of the passage with the entire group.

Group 1: Jeremiah 22:13-17

Group 2: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Group 3: Proverbs 11:1-4

Group 4: 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

What themes are you noticing between these four passages? How could we turn these passages into principles for doing business?

Fully Own

Imagine a business that operates according to the principles in the above passages 100% of the time. What would this business be known for in the community? What would its top priorities be? What would it be like to work there?

Now, imagine a person who operates according to the principles in the above passages 100% of the time. What would they be known for? What would their top priorities be? What would it be like to work with them?

Be honest, would the people you spend time with (at work or home) commend you for your performance and attitude? How is God challenging or encouraging you to grow in this area?


Who in your life best models Colossians 3:17? How would you like to imitate them?

Read Proverbs 29:25. What fears tempt us to work and live with a lack of integrity?

Challenge

Pay attention to your inner life this week at work. Make a note of time when you feel the “fear of man” creeping in. Come prepared to share these moments with the group next week.





Work as Worship

Christian Employees



Leader Check-in

What did you learn about yourself this week? Did you notice any patterns as you observed the presence of the “fear of man” in your work life?

Discover

Have you ever been afraid that God was disappointed in you or your work? Where do you think this fear comes from?

Read Philippians 2:1-18 silently to yourself two or three times. Underline or highlight the words and phrases that stand out to you as you consider the idea of “work as worship.” Then, share your insights with the group.

Re-read Philippians 2:5-11. According to this passage, how does God respond to the mindset that Jesus modeled for us?

Do you trust that God will lift you up (James 4:10) when you humble yourself? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 3:12. How do these qualities play out in your workplace?

Fully Own

Read Colossians 3:22–4:1. What working principles do you see here? How could this affect the way you work?

What are some of the challenges of submitting to imperfect, human authority?

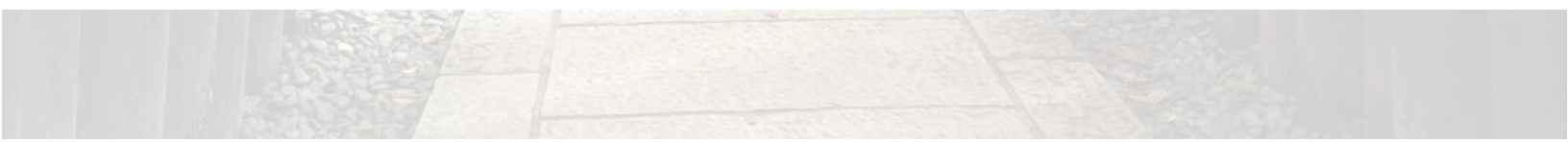
What are you doing with the resources and the strengths and the gifts God has given you? Are you using them to serve yourself? Or are you leveraging those things to serve others?


If other people evaluated the worthiness of God based on the quality of your work, what conclusions would they draw?

Read 1 Peter 2:9. How would your attitude and behavior change if you saw yourself as a chaplain or priest in your workplace?

Challenge

Commit **James 4:10** to memory this week. Write it down and place it somewhere prominently so that you will see it several times a day. Then, look for opportunities to live it out through your work.





Work as Worship

Christian Owners and Managers



Leader Check-in

Were you able to memorize James 4:10? What opportunities did God give you to live out this Bible passage at your place of work?

Discover

Who is the best boss you ever had? What made them a great leader?

What would it look like to think of your work through the lens of the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)?

If everyone you worked with had a work-life balance like you, would your workplace be more or less healthy? Explain.

Fully Own

Answer the questions below in order to create a personal mission statement. While there's no particular formula, and you might bring other factors into it, consider how you might put together some of your responses into a 1-3 sentence Work Mission Statement. When you are done, share your mission statement with the group:

How would you define the work you do?

What particular skills, abilities, or passions do you bring to your work?

What does it look like, feel like, sound like when you do your work well? (These could be random words or phrases to describe the experience.)

(If applicable, and if you know it) What is your company's mission statement?

How does your work help people, contribute to society, or make the world a better place?

How has God used you for his purposes in your working day?



Are there particular people, people-groups, or types of outreach that you think your work could benefit in a God-inspired way?

EXAMPLE: As the owner of a coffee shop, my mission is to provide a quality product and a relaxing atmosphere for my customers, a fair salary and opportunities for growth for my employees, and fair-market wages for those workers overseas who supply our raw materials. My work enables people to provide for their families and creates an environment where people can come together in community. I seek to display God's compassion and grace to all I serve.

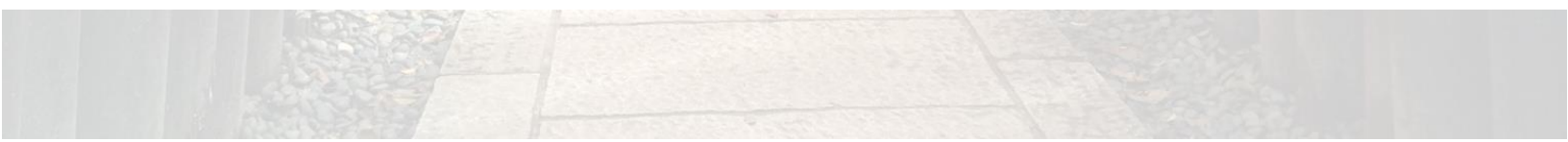
Or, if you aren't an owner or manager,

Working as a receptionist at a doctor's office, my mission is to provide peace, comfort, and order to people who are suffering, worried, or confused. My work enables the medical staff to use their healing gifts effectively. I seek to radiate God's love as I do this.

Use the remainder of this sheet to draft your statement.

Challenge

Pay attention to your work-life balance this week. Ask God to show you areas where greater balance is needed.





Work as Worship

Your Faith at Work



Leader Check-in

What did you discover about your personal work-life balance? Is the way you approach work worth emulating?

Discover

Have you ever observed an employee or co-worker live their faith out well in the workplace? What did you notice?

Read Proverbs 22:29. How would you say this verse in your own words? Has your diligence at work ever given you an opportunity to influence others toward Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. How does this describe us as believers?

According to this passage, how might people respond to the “aroma” of the knowledge of Christ?

What can this passage teach us about sharing our faith in our everyday lives?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-16. According to these verses, how should we act when sharing the gospel? How should we treat people?

Fully Own

What boundaries have you allowed to limit the way you share your faith with others at work?

Consider the Central Mark of Ownership, Found People Find People. Have you seen your workplace as a mission field for sharing your faith?

How interested are you in the lives of your co-workers? How is God challenging you to care more for your co-workers and/or employees?


Read Matthew 5:13-16. How can you be salt and light in your workplace?

What answer would you give if someone you work with asked, “Why do you have so much hope?”

Challenge

Make a list of all the obstacles you see and excuses you have made to avoid sharing your faith (appropriately) where you work. Prayerfully ask God to show you ways to overcome these obstacles and excuses. One by one, replace your list of excuses with a list of solutions and ideas.





Work as Worship

Don't Worship Work



Leader Check-in

What is the most significant insight you have gained from this study?

Discover

Has your commitment to serve God first ever cost you in your professional life? What happened?

Split up into groups in order to carefully read **Isaiah 44**. In your smaller groups, answer the following questions:

- What does this passage teach us about idol worship?
- What does this passage teach us about the consequences of idolatry?
- What does this passage teach us about God's love for us?
- What does this passage teach us about our identity as God's people?

Come back together as a group and share your answers.

What are some of the red flags that would indicate that work has become an idol in someone's life?

Fully Own

Consider the following quote. Do you agree or disagree? Support your answer.

An idol is not usually a bad thing; it's usually a good thing that has taken on too much weight. We begin to worship it as if it were God, and so it becomes a bad thing to us. -J.D. Greear

Read Psalm 127:1-2. Do you experience the rest that this verse promises to those God loves? Why or why not?

In what ways have you looked to your work for security, identity, and safety? Take a second look at Isaiah 44. Which of God's promises to Israel most comforts you?

Challenge

Read Isaiah 44 every day this week. Journal your thoughts each day as you pray and reflect on God's truth, and his particular message to you.

