

social networks

Leader Guide

THE WIN

The win this week is to help your group to live out their calling at work by developing a personal mission statement for their workplace.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In Ephesians 6:5-9, Paul continues his instruction on God's design for relationships by laying out a vision for servants and their masters, which we can apply directly towards improving our workplace. In Sunday's sermon, we learned the following points:

- We cannot divide the sacred and secular: Jesus rules over every sphere of our lives
- Jesus is glorified through the following actions of Christians in the workplace
 - A strong work ethic
 - A unique attitude
- The motivation is a greater master (Jesus) and an eternal reward
- Employers are called to treat their employees with humility and dignity, recognizing that they are no better in the eyes of God

ASK THIS:

Is there anything from the sermon that you would like to discuss with the group this week?

5
minutes

WARM UP

Choose 1-2 of the following questions:

- What was your very first job that you had growing up?
- If you could change your career today, what would be your dream job?
- What is the one thing about life that you have learned from your work that you still practice?

15-20
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

SAY THIS:

In order to help apply what we learned from the sermon this week, we're going to split up into two groups to dig into additional passages on work and discuss.

DO THIS:

Have each group look up their assigned passages and answer the corresponding questions.

Group 1:

Colossians 3:1-3- How should these verses affect your attitude at work?

Colossians 3:12- Which one of these qualities do you struggle to "put on" in the workplace?

Colossians 3:17- How would this command change the way you work at your job?

Colossians 3:22-4:1- Which one of these principles could you put into place this week?

Group 2:

Philippians 2:3-4- What type of attitude should we have as Christians?

Philippians 2:12-16-

- Whose purpose are we working for? How does it make you feel to know that God is actually the one behind your efforts? (v. 13)
- What if there were no "grumbling or arguing" in your workplace? (v.14) Do you struggle with contributing to this?
- How does v. 15 describe us? What does God want the people around us to see?

Jeremiah 29:7- What specific steps can you take to seek the "welfare" and "prosperity" of your workplace?

DO THIS:

After 15 minutes or so, gather the entire group together to share some of their findings with the broader group.

LEADER TIP:

Emphasize for both groups: By God's grace through faith, we have a new life in Christ. In a spiritual sense that is becoming reality, we have left behind the life and loves of this world and have moved into life with Christ. This brings a new understanding of everything, including work. We now gain our fulfillment in Christ and give our lives away to others. This includes being proactive in glorifying God by doing great work and seeking the welfare of those whom we serve through our work.

15-20
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

DO THIS:

Working with a partner, draft a mission statement¹ that pertains to the work you do.

1. How would you define the work you do?

2. What specific skills, abilities, or passions do you bring to your work?

¹ Excerpts from the *Work As Worship* Study by JD Greear (as published and found on RightNow Media)

3. 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.)

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

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

6. How has God used you for his purposes during your working day?

7. Are there particular people or groups that you think your work could benefit if done in a God-inspired way?

Have each group member take the following answers and complete a 1-3 sentence mission statement. It could look something like this:

"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."

As time permits, have group members share their statement with the broader group.

Post this mission statement somewhere at work that you can remind yourself frequently of your purpose at work. If possible, share it with a co-worker and get her feedback!

CLOSING THOUGHT

"A job is a vocation only if someone else calls you to do it for them rather than for yourself. And so our work can be a calling only if it is reimagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests. Thinking of work mainly as a means of self-fulfillment and self-realization slowly crushes a person."

(Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Plan For the World*)

Spend time this week thinking on this quote along with your mission statement. Since we can have complete joy and fulfillment in Christ, could you begin to treat work as a mission of service to others rather than just a job to gain self-fulfillment?