

Before the Lesson

Read the Scriptures and overview below before your LIFE Group meets this week.

Scripture Passages: Matthew 28:18-20, John 15:1-11

When it comes to work, every trade has its “tools,” and it’s amazing that when you put the right tools in the right hands, you can get the job done. Have you ever thought about the fact that your job – your trade – is a tool God wants to use in your life to make you a disciple of Jesus Christ? It is not in the nature of God to waste resources, experiences, or circumstances. On the contrary, God uses them in His redemptive purposes to shape his people into the image of Christ.

Keeping that perspective in mind, have you ever asked about your job: “What am I doing here?” While many of us may have wondered it, as believers, raising this question challenges the very nature of a sovereign God. It is, in fact, the wrong question to ask. Instead, what believers should examine in reference to their job is, “What is God up to here?” and “How can I get on board?”

In his message this week, Pastor McKinley pointed out that your job doesn’t have to be drudgery. Rather, it can be a place where you discover God’s presence, display excellence, demonstrate perseverance, develop influence for Kingdom advancement, and deepen your dependence on God. In light of those points, answer this question ...

How is God using your job to make you a disciple for Him?

Group Discussion

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- Review Matthew 28:18-20 and answer these questions: How have you seen God’s presence in your job? How have you seen God use your job to disciple you? Have you used your influence to show Christ to others in your job recently, and if so, how? How has God used your job to make you more dependent on Him?
- Read John 15:5 and Matthew 13:21. What does this passage tell you about remaining in Jesus’s presence? What are some benefits to abiding in Christ?
- Read John 15:15-16. Describe this kind of intimacy with Jesus. What are the benefits and responsibilities that go along with this type relationship? What does this passage say about the correlation between remaining in Jesus’ presence and bearing fruit for the Kingdom?
- In your workplace, where is the standard of your excellence derived?

- What does John 15:7-8 say about bringing God glory, and how might you live out this truth in your workplace?
- God is faithful and He desires to build the character of faithfulness in His disciples. How have you seen God doing this in your life? Give specific examples if you can.
- How does John 15:5 relate to the attribute of faithfulness?
- Read Isaiah 41:10, 13, and 43:1-2. What do these verses tell you about perseverance?
- Who are you influencing in your current job? Are you influencing them in a positive or negative way? Read John 15:12-17 and discuss some characteristics of godly influence in this passage.
- Who are you depending on in your workplace? Part of growing as a disciple is becoming more deeply dependent upon God. This is seemingly a paradox according to the world's point of view. How deep is your dependence on God? How have you seen God place difficulties in your path to deepen your dependence on Him?
- Discipleship does not simply encompass the "academics" of Biblical knowledge and truth. Discipleship is a *way of life*. Can you honestly say that you are growing as a disciple?
- Will keeping this kind of perspective about your job make it more joyful and less stressful? (See Psalm 16:11 and John 15:10-11.)

Further Study

A word study is a Bible study method that helps us understand and interpret Scripture correctly and thoroughly. Do a word study this week on one of the key words/phrases listed at the bottom of this section. Use one (or both) of these resources to help you: blueletterbible.org or biblehub.com.

Simply type in the word or phrase and compare the verses. You can also use these resource sites to look at the original language and meanings of these words for a more accurate understanding. After you study the verses and definitions, write down any new insights you discovered, and ask yourself these questions:

- How can understanding this word or phrase make me a better disciple?
- What does God want to teach me about this truth?
- Are there any adjustments I need to make in light of what I have learned?
- How can I apply these new truths to my life and share them with someone at my job, home, or neighborhood?

Word Studies:

- God's Faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23)
- God's Presence (Psalm 16:11)
- Remain, Abide (John 15:5)