



Nine to Five

5-WEEK STUDY

on Why our Work Matters to God

WEEK 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Work and Calling

Genesis 1:27-28





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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Genesis 1:27-28

GETTING STARTED

Goal for this session: To help individuals discern their vocation so they can express it in their occupation

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Where is your “happy place” or your favorite spot on earth?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Use the following terms interchangeably: Vocation/Calling and Occupation/Work. Have everyone share what occupies a majority of their time and then answer the following: Does your occupation give you a sense of purpose and fulfillment? If not, how does reflecting on your occupation make you feel?
2. What is your understanding of the difference between vocation and occupation?
3. Sunday's sermon opened with a story about an English preacher named John Newton. His nation was in spiritual and moral decline at the time, much like ours. In what ways have you seen our nation decline spiritually or morally?
4. Pastor Parkher argued that Christians taking their vocation (calling) into their occupation (work) has the power to win our friends, communities, and even nation, to Christ. How does this motivate you to respond? What is one thing you can do this week to bring your vocation into your occupation?
5. “Vocation is discovered in private and discerned in public.”
 - A. Our vocation is from God. It is our unique purpose for being on earth. Have you taken the time to be with God and discern in private, what your vocation is? What process did you use to discover it? What bible verses do you use to support how you believe God is calling you? If you haven't yet discovered your vocation, what process will you use to do so?
 - B. Has your vocation been discerned in public? This means that you have presented your calling to your closest Christian community and they have asked good bible-backed questions to help you make sure your vocation is accurate. If so, what did that process look like for you? If not, our group is a space for you to do that. How can we help you discern your calling?



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PRAYER

Pray for (the group) each other: Pray that everyone in the group has a clear understanding from the Lord of their vocation and how that can impact their occupation.

Pray for yourself: Pray that you would have power and boldness from the Holy Spirit to bring your vocation into your occupation.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Spend time alone with the Lord to discern your vocation. Then ask 1-3 people to meet or have a phone call with you so you can share what you are sensing your vocation might be. Ask them for their input with questions like "Do you think this is correct?", "Are any bible verses coming to your mind that confirm or contradict what I think my vocation is?", "How do you think this could bring God glory and bring good to the world?", and "Would you pray for me?"

NOTES

