



# Nine to Five

## 5-WEEK STUDY

on Why our Work Matters to God

### WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Work and the Cross**

Matthew 6:21-27





# Nine to Five

## WEEKLY READING

**Primary text from this week:** Matthew 6:21-27

**Secondary texts from this week:** Matthew 4:8-11, Philippians 2:1-11

## GETTING STARTED

**Goal for this session:** To consider our work in view of the Cross

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at [www.youtube.com/venturamissionary](http://www.youtube.com/venturamissionary)

**Break the Ice:** Would you rather work in a job that provided you financial success or one that provided significance to others? Explain.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read **Matthew 16:21-27**. What does Jesus disclose in detail to the disciples for the first time in this passage? How do they, specifically Peter, respond to this disclosure?
2. Consider the boldness of Peter in rebuking Jesus after he had just acknowledged who Jesus was/is (**Matthew 16:16**). Why is Peter's response so striking based on his understanding of who Jesus is? When have you questioned God's plan in your life? What circumstances prompted your questioning?
3. Why does Jesus refer to Peter as a stumbling block? How does He describe Peter just a couple of verses earlier in **Matthew 16:18**?
4. Read **Matthew 4:8-11**. How does the temptation Satan presents to Jesus resemble the content of Peter's rebuke to Jesus? What fears might Peter be revealing?
5. How did Peter appear to understand power and authority? How does the life and ministry of Jesus challenge the world's understanding of power?
6. Read **Philippians 2:1-11**. What would it look like for you to have the same attitude and mindset as Jesus in your workplace? How would you need to adjust the way you lead and are being led?
7. What expectations does Jesus lay out for anyone who wants to be His disciple? How often do you put others above yourself? Is it harder for you to sacrifice for others at work or at home? Explain.
8. What would it look like for you to deny yourself on behalf of Jesus for others in your job? How could your sacrifice bring greater significance and success to you and the people with whom you work?
9. God exalted Jesus through His humble death on the cross (**Philippians 2:8-9**). What greater significance would our work have if we exercised power the way Jesus modeled it on the cross? How could our increased humility lead to the possibility of increased influence?
10. What steps do you need to take this week to *fight for the highest possible good* of your employees, co-workers, bosses, students, clients, customers?



# Nine to Five

## PRAYER

**Pray for (the group) and each other:** Pray that you would be able to exchange the desire for power for the invitation to love.

**Pray for yourself:** Pray for others, especially those with whom you struggle the most with at work. Pray for their flourishing. Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal ways of serving others at your work and give you the power to do so.

**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

Read **Philippians 2:1-11** several times this week and reflect on the following:

- 1. Write a list of areas in your professional and personal life where you may need to deny yourself in order to better sacrifice and serve those around you.
- 2. Look for ways of drawing attention to others this week at work rather than seeking your own

## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

