



Nine to Five

5-WEEK STUDY

on Why our Work Matters to God

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Work and Calling

Colossians 3:17





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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Colossians 3:17

GETTING STARTED

Goal for this session: To learn the principle of work as worship and that our work serves God and others

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

Break the Ice: If you had the skills, training, and opportunity, what is one job you'd love to do and why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note for today's discussion: Remember that the term work refers to more than just a job we do for a paycheck. Our work includes things like raising a family, taking care of grandkids, grocery shopping, preparing meals, taking care of a home, caring for aging parents or family members, and much more.

1. What are some things you like about your work? What are some things you dislike about your work?
2. Pastor Doug emphasized that *our work is worship*. How does this idea change how you view worship? How do you think you could worship God through your work?
3. As you think about your work, what are some ways that your work serves God? What are some ways that your work serves others?
4. Have three people in the group each read one of the following passages: **1 Corinthians 10:31**, **Colossians 3:17**, and **Colossians 3:23**. Discuss the similarities and differences in each of these passages.
5. Have someone in the group read **Romans 12:1** in The Message paraphrase (we read this passage two weeks ago). How does this verse fit with what we've been talking about already?
6. Have someone in the group read **2 Thessalonians 3:6-10**. Paul is reminding the Thessalonian church that, during his visit, he had worked hard and been responsible for his own way. In what ways does this passage dignify the value of hard work? Why do you think Paul includes the seemingly harsh statement at the end of verse 10?
7. How do you plan to apply Sunday's message in your life this week?
8. Next week, Pastor Scott will be teaching on the subject of "Work and the Cross." In preparation for next week's topic, read this quote from Eugene Peterson and discuss whether you agree or disagree. *I'm prepared to contend that the primary location for spiritual formation is the workplace (from Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places).*



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PRAYER

Pray for (the group) each other: Pray that everyone in the group would discover new ways to integrate their faith with their work this week.

Pray for yourself: Pray that you would be diligent in your work this week as you work to glorify God.

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

This week, identify and put into practice one area where you can improve in your work.

NOTES
