

Table Group Discussion Guide

Series: Practical Wisdom | Title: "How Do I Work Well?" | August 2, 2026

Start Here (5 minutes)

1. What did you want to be when you were growing up? And how far is that from where you actually landed?

Getting to Know Each Other (10 minutes)

2. The sermon said your work isn't just your job — it's what you make of the world and what you bring to it, paid or unpaid. If someone asked what your work is — in that bigger sense — what would you say? What do you actually spend your life making or bringing?

Getting Into the Word (25 minutes)

Read together: **Genesis 1:26–28, Prov. 6:6–8, Proverbs 11:1, Proverbs 20:4, and Colossians 3:23–24**

In Genesis 1, every human being bears God's image — not just kings and rulers like in other ancient origin stories. The sermon's one point: "Your work is not separate from your life with God. It either becomes worship, or it becomes a treadmill."

3. Be honest — which one does your work feel like right now? What makes it tip one direction or the other on a given day?

Proverbs gives three marks of working well: **diligence** (6:6–8), **integrity** (11:1), and **right work in the right season** (20:4). The pharmacist's line in the sermon: "The routine prescription is only routine to you. It's not routine to the person picking it up."

4. Which of those three is your growing edge right now? Where in your work have you been operating on autopilot — and who is on the other end of that?

Colossians 3:23 says to work “as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Paul is writing to people who were literally enslaved — telling them even that work isn’t wasted. The sermon put it this way: your company might change, your team might change, the economy might change — but your ultimate boss never changes.

5. What would actually change about your Monday if you genuinely believed you were working for Jesus rather than for your manager, your clients, or your own reputation?

Going Deeper with Each Other (15 minutes)

The sermon included an honest admission: taking work that felt like a demotion — *“I had the degree. I had the résumé. And now I’m plating food for elementary schoolers.”* And later: *“We tend to rank the answers. We assume the work with a title attached is more significant than the work without one.”*

6. Where do you catch yourself ranking work — your own or other people’s? Has there been a season when you felt your work was beneath you? What did that season teach you?

The mentor’s question in the sermon was: *“What is this season for?”* Not what do I want. Not what’s available. What is this stretch of my life actually for? And the sermon added: the question is worth asking even when you don’t have the answer yet.

7. What season are you in right now — building, maintaining, recovering, waiting, transitioning? And what might the right work be for the season you’re actually in rather than the one you wish you were in?

Proverbs says do these things and life tends to work out. Ecclesiastes says “I did, and it didn’t.” Both are in Scripture. Both are true to real life.

8. Is there an area where you’ve done the right things and it hasn’t worked out — a job, a business, a search, a calling? Let the group hear it without trying to fix it. **ACTION BONUS:** If someone in the group names something like this, one person commit to checking in with them mid-week. Not with advice. Just a text that says “thinking about you.”

Coming Back to Where You Started (5 minutes)

The sermon said the answer to meaningful work isn't getting your dream job — it's recognizing you're already part of something bigger than the paycheck.

9. Has anything shifted in how you're thinking about your work after this conversation? What's one thing you're taking away?

Pray for Each Other (10 minutes)

Try this one differently this week. Go around the table and have each person name their work out loud — just the plain description of it. "I teach third graders." "I drive a route." "I take care of my mom." "I'm looking for work right now." No explaining, no apologizing for it, no minimizing it.

Then, after each person names theirs, have the group say together: *"This is worship. God, receive it."*

Go all the way around before anyone prays anything else. Then close by praying for whatever specific needs came up in the conversation.

One Thing to Carry Into the Week

The **"now what"** from the sermon is ten seconds long. Tomorrow morning, before you start whatever your work is — the commute, the inbox, the kids, the shift — stop and say: "Lord, this is for you." That's it. Ten seconds.

Do it every morning this week. Come back and tell someone whether it changed anything about how the day felt.