

SMALL GROUPS

This message closed out the series by addressing one of the most common places we feel pressure: our daily work. Using Colossians 3:22-24 and the life of Joseph as the foundation, the sermon challenged us to stop viewing work as something to simply survive and start seeing it as a place of God-given purpose. Whether we are employed, retired, a student, or a stay-at-home parent, the calling to represent Jesus does not clock out.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Use these as a reference point throughout your discussion:

1. Work from purpose, not just for a paycheck. Your location may change, but your calling never does.
2. Honor God through your attitude. Your attitude reveals who you believe is really in control.
3. See people as your ministry. God may have placed you where you are not just for the job, but for a specific person.
4. Remember who you are really working for. Your boss may sign your paycheck, but your calling comes from your Heavenly Father.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR REFLECTION

The following passages were referenced in the sermon. Read them together or individually before discussing:

- Colossians 3:22-24 — Paul's instruction to work as unto the Lord rather than for people
- Genesis 39:2 — The account of God being with Joseph even in slavery, resulting in his success
- Philippians 2:14-15 — The call to do all things without complaining so that we shine as lights
- Matthew 5:16 — The command to let our light shine so others glorify God
- Galatians 6:9 — The encouragement to not grow weary in doing good, because a harvest is coming

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Work through as many of these as time allows. Do not feel pressure to cover every question.

Getting Honest

1. Have you ever caught yourself just trying to make it to Friday? What was driving that feeling during that season?
2. The sermon opened with the idea that this message is not really about employment but about purpose. How does reframing work as a calling rather than a job change the way you approach Monday morning?

Digging Into Joseph

3. Joseph was sold into slavery, falsely accused, and forgotten in prison, yet the Bible records him serving faithfully in every season. What do you think kept him from becoming bitter? What can we learn from that?
4. The sermon made this statement: "Your location may change, but your calling never does." Can you think of a time in your own life when God used a season or a place you never would have chosen to develop something in you?
5. Joseph's faithfulness in Potiphar's house prepared him for Pharaoh's palace. What do you think God might be preparing you for in your current season, even if it feels like a step backward or a standstill?

Attitude Check

6. Philippians 2:14-15 calls us to do all things without complaining or arguing. On a scale of one to ten, how well are you currently doing that in your daily responsibilities? What makes it difficult?
7. The sermon said, "Your attitude reveals who you believe is really in control." When life feels unfair or unrecognized at work, whose approval are you really working for? How does your honest answer affect your day-to-day attitude?
8. The sermon drew a distinction between solving a problem and feeding a spirit of negativity. How do you personally navigate that line? What does it look like to address something that is genuinely wrong without slipping into a complaining spirit?

Seeing People Differently

9. The sermon challenged us to see the people around us as our ministry, not just our coworkers, customers, or classmates. Who is one specific person in your regular weekly environment that God may have placed there for you to love, encourage, or point toward Him?
10. Pastor Mack said, "You may be the only Bible some people ever read." When your coworkers, classmates, or neighbors read your life, what do you think they see? Is there a gap between who you are inside these walls and who you are outside of them?
11. Joseph noticed two discouraged men while he himself was in prison. He was the one with every reason to be absorbed in his own pain, yet he looked outward. What would it look like for you to be more outwardly focused in a season where you are personally struggling?

Working for the Right Audience

12. The sermon said, "If you are only working for your boss, your attitude rises and falls with your boss. If you are only working for a paycheck, your joy rises and falls with the paycheck." Which of these traps do you find yourself falling into most often, and how does it affect you?
13. Galatians 6:9 promises a harvest if we do not give up. Is there an area of your life right now where you are tempted to stop doing the right thing because it does not seem to be paying off? How does this passage speak into that?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one of the following to commit to before your group meets again:

- The Monday Mindset Shift. Before you begin work this week, spend five minutes asking God to show you who He has placed in your environment for you to love or encourage. Write that person's name down and be intentional about them throughout the week.
- The Attitude Audit. For one full week, pay attention to how often you complain, either out loud or internally, about your job, responsibilities, or circumstances. At the end of the week, reflect on what your patterns revealed about who you believe is in control.
- The Unseen Faithfulness Challenge. Identify one task or responsibility in your weekly routine that nobody notices or praises you for. Commit to doing it this week with full effort and a grateful heart, as an act of worship to God rather than performance for people.
- The One Person Prayer. Write down the name of one person in your workplace, school, or community who seems discouraged or far from God. Pray for them by name every day this week and look for one natural opportunity to encourage them.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Close your time together by reading this statement from the sermon aloud as a group:

"Every single one of us here was created on purpose for a purpose. You were not created by accident. God literally breathed His spirit, His life into you."

Then take a few minutes for each person to answer this final question before praying together:

What is one thing from this sermon that you want to carry with you into your week, and what would it look like to actually live it out?

GROUP PRAYER

Close by praying together over these specific areas:

- That God would shift your perspective from surviving your week to serving within it
- That He would open your eyes to the people He has placed around you
- That He would develop faithfulness and integrity in each group member during whatever season they are currently in
- That your light would shine in your workplace, school, and community in a way that points people to Jesus

"Let's not become discouraged in doing good. For in due time, we will reap if we do not become weary." Galatians 6:9 — a summary of Paul's encouragement to press on in faithful service