

Lesson 3: A Biblical Understanding of Work

Part 1

If you are leading a class, use these questions to provoke their thinking about work.

- Is work generally considered good or bad?
- What are some proverbs in your language about work?

Read Genesis 1:28.

- What were God's first instructions to Adam?
- Was this before or after Adam sinned by eating the fruit?

Read Genesis 2:2.

- What does God rest from?

Read Mark 6:1-3.

- What was Jesus' profession before He started teaching?

HIT PLAY NOW TO CONTINUE

Part 2

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

What are some reasons to work?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- Ephesians 4:28

After each group shares their ideas, use the following questions to debrief

- Do you think God intends for us to work?
- What attitude do people typically have towards work?
- What attitude do you think we should have about work?

HIT PLAY NOW TO CONTINUE

Part 3

Read the story of Brother Lawrence

Around 1608 a man was born in France. He became a Christian at the age of eighteen and, in his twenties, he decided that he wanted to commit his life to God more fully. He entered a monastery where he was given the name Brother Lawrence. He imagined that by living in a monastery he would spend all his time at the chapel praying and worshipping God. However, he found himself assigned to the kitchen duties. For ten years he hated being in the kitchen while others were at the chapel. He resented being given such meaningless work.

If you are leading a class, divide them into small groups to discuss these questions.

- If you met Brother Lawrence during these ten years, what advice would you have given him?
- Do you think Brother Lawrence's work in the kitchen was less important than the praying of the monks in the chapel?

Read the following verses and think how they apply to this situation:

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Colossians 3:23

Have each group share back. Afterward divide into pairs to discuss two questions below

PARTNER DISCUSSION

- If all work can honour God, then how does that affect the way you think about your work?
- Does this impact the way you do your work?

Part 4

For class setting:

Divide class into small groups of 4-5 people. Ask each group to choose a job (for example: teacher, farmer, cleaner) and create two role plays: one showing a person doing the job in a way that brings glory to God, and one showing a person doing the job in a way that does not bring glory to God.

Do your role plays for the whole group.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

After each role play discuss:

- What are some of the ways you saw the person bringing glory to God in his/her work?
- What are some of the ways you saw the person not bringing glory to God in his/her work?
- What are some more ideas we can add to each of these lists?