Community Group Discussion Guide

Faith and Work

**Watch the Faith and Work teaching video.**

**After viewing the video, discuss the following questions with your Community Group:**

1. What is the difference between a “job” and a “calling” or “vocation”?
2. If you won a large enough jackpot to provide for all your financial needs and desires for the rest of your life, would you continue to work? Why? Why not? If you chose to remain employed, would you stay in your current job and schedule (full time or part time) or would you change your job and schedule?
3. Reflect on the six key observations of the faith and work culture. Do you agree with the observations? Consider the following:
   1. Do you keep your faith and work life compartmentalized?
   2. Do you or your spouse/family members spend at least eight hours a day at work?
   3. Have you ever been tempted in the workplace? Have you been at risk of work becoming your identity?
   4. Is how you act on Sunday the same way you act throughout the week?
   5. Are you or your coworkers constantly looking for different work opportunities?
   6. Do you find yourself consistently seeking to earn more money? For what motivations?
4. What are possible consequences of advancing in your career faster than you mature in faith?
5. Interact with this statement: *Our vocation (or calling) is not truly found until we are fit.* What does this mean? How does this relate to our formative calling?
6. What relationships have you established in your current workplace? Do you have influence on your coworkers? How did you establish, deepen, and maintain these relationships and this influence?
7. Reflect on the key attributes of Jesus. Focus specifically on the ones he demonstrated with his disciples and those he ministered to. What disciplines or actions can you implement to better display these same attributes in your workplace and relationships?
8. Review the list of spiritual disciplines: prayer, worship, study, fellowship, fasting, self-examination, gratitude.
   1. Discuss each discipline – what is it? What are specific practices associated with the discipline?
   2. Which of these disciplines do you practice regularly?
   3. Share with the group the way ways you implement some of these disciplines in your daily or weekly life.
   4. Which discipline do you need to implement more regularly? What action step do you need to take to implement this habit?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Are you currently drinking milk or solid food? What action steps can you take to continue maturing in faith?
10. What steps can you take to begin changing the culture in your workplace? Spend time as a group praying for each other’s spheres of influence.
11. Complete the self-assessment exercise outlined by Eric. Reflect on the following prompts after you’ve completed the exercise:
    1. Which of the attributes listed describe you?
    2. How big of a gap is there between the attributes listed and your current thoughts, behaviors, and actions in your sphere of influence.

Continued Study

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**For continued discussion on this topic, reflect and answer the following prompts individually or with your Community Group:**

1. Spend time in communion with God. Review and reflect on the following scriptures:

* Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1 Timothy 5:8, Titus 2:9-10, Ephesians 4:28
* According to these passages of scripture, why is work valuable in God’s sight?

1. Read Genesis 1-2.

* How would you describe God’s work?
* How does God assess the value of His creative work?
* What job(s) does God give humans?
* How does God’s work (Genesis 1) relate to mankind’s work (Genesis 1-2)?
* What does this passage tell us about the nature of work?
* Do you view your work as a gift from God? Why or why not?

1. Consider your spiritual gifts and the way they relate to your work.

* What are your top three spiritual gifts?
* Do you use your spiritual gifts in your current job?
* How can you increase your use of your gifts in your current workplace?

1. Spend time in prayer:

* Ask God to teach you how to work in a way that please Him and blesses others.
* Ask God to convict you of unrighteous and ungodly attitudes and behaviors at work.
* Pray for your coworkers. Pray for God to use you to reach those who don’t know Jesus, and to bless your brothers and sisters who do know Him.
* Pray for God to refine your character for your current or a future job.
* Praise God for the job(s) He has provided you over the years. Thank Him for the gift of work.

**Resources for further study**

*Every Good Endeavor -* Tim Keller

*The Celebration of Disciplines –* Richard Foster