

Water of Life Community Church

YOUR WORLD, YOUR WORK, YOUR DESTINY

WEEK 1

1 CORINTHIANS 15 :58 ; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:10-12

LEADER NOTES

Your Participants will only see the text noted in **bold**.

ICE BREAKER

- Why would Pastor be talking to us about our jobs/work in church?
- What book in the Bible first mentions work and what was the first work done, and by whom?

“Our Work,” Part II of this series - Pastor will be teaching how the Bible is full of pictures of people living everyday life working at jobs. The scriptures will help us understand that God intended for us to always work and that working counts in eternity, so “working jobs” are not in vain. He points out that many of us (including me) lose sight of Genesis 2:1-3, 15 ESV...*God worked* six days and rested on the seventh day. Then He took the man and *delegated him to work* in the Garden of Eden and to *manage* it. In John 5:17, Jesus says “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.” That scripture was misfiled in my “lost and found” memory box! How did I miss that? You?

OPEN IN PRAYER

Father God, thank You that You care for all the facets of our life, including our work where many of us spend most of our days/nights. Open the eyes of my heart to receive from You today/this evening Your viewpoint on work and how it has always had a purpose in Your kingdom, where from the beginning You worked as Creator, then gave Adam the responsibility to work and manage Your earthly creation. Thank You for being here in this small group today/tonight and bless us with more insight into Your purpose and destiny for us, Your workers. Remind us that we are not defined by what we do but Whose we are. Let every part of our lives give You glory, Father. Amen.

WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to <https://vimeo.com/album/2977729> and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at mywolgroup.com.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor explains that the Bible is full of pictures of people living everyday life in jobs, work, and employment. Think of Jesus as a carpenter, the disciples who came from all walks of life. "Work makes up so much of our lives and God is interested in all of our lives, not just the spiritual aspect." This teaching will confirm how God wants to give meaning to all our life - inclusive of our work-life with its ups and downs and regardless of the world's estimation of our occupation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

I. READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58.

- a. Which part of this verse applies to your work on the job/at the workplace?
- b. What does it mean that your "labor in the Lord is not in vain" when applied to your job?

Pastor speaks to "vocation" (a calling) regarding work/job and invites us to revisit how we think of our jobs - to see ourselves as the hands and feet of God in the workplace, furthering God's work, to see this life through the eyes of Jesus instead of our own or others. This gives new meaning to "in the Lord" our labor is not in vain; everything we do on this earth (good, bad and ugly) counts in eternity. All our life has the potential to give God glory.

- c. Ultimately, as a follower of Christ, who would you say you are working for?
- d. Why does your labor here on earth count in eternity? If you are retired or you are a home administrator (homemaker), or if you have a disability, what does your labor on earth look like?

2. READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:10-12.

- a. How is this verse applicable to benevolence?
- b. Why is work necessary?

Pastor points out that the Bible doesn't distinguish between menial or dignified work but that to work is life-giving, a blessing. This is confirmed by Genesis 1:26, "Man should rule over the earth." Jesus' destiny included carpentry, but He was not defined by carpentry. God, Himself, worked and on the seventh day, He rested. Before the fall, God told man what to do: "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground'" Genesis 1:28. Build, create, subdue (not exploit) nature, develop the potential He gave us and this earth, carry on the work God began - growing things, creating cloth from wool, bread from wheat, using wood, bricks and cement to build buildings - all this work has dignity and destiny.

- c. How does Genesis 1:28 affect your view of your job/work?
- d. How does God's perspective differ from the world's regarding the dignity of a field worker vs a CEO?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- What did you learn in this teaching? What most impacted you?
- How did the disciples' jobs prepare/qualify them to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to "follow" Him? How does your job qualify you to be His disciple?

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- Genesis 1:1-31 "In the beginning" God worked; He is still working.
- Before the fall, He told Adam to work and manage (subdue not harm) His creation.
- We are not defined by our job, job title, paycheck, etc. - we are defined by who we are in Christ Jesus.

- Everything we do, including our daily work, should be done unto the Lord and give Him glory.

RESPOND

- Since it has always been God's plan for man to work, how can you more intentionally acknowledge Him and honor this aspect of His plan for your life this week?

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT), "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."

COMMENTARY

For further commentary visit:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nlt/1-corinthians/15-58.html>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/2-thessalonians/3-11.html>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/genesis/passage/?q=genesis+2:1-3>