

Water of Life Community Church
YOUR WORLD, YOUR WORK, YOUR DESTINY
WEEK 2

GENESIS 3:17-19, ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13, 22 AND 4:4

LEADER NOTES

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

ICE BREAKER

- As a child, what kind of work did you want to do as an adult, and why?
- Describe your worst job, what you disliked about it, and why you took it.

Everyone had dreams as a child, maybe it was to be an actress or professional athlete - and everyone probably worked in a job they disliked at one time. Encourage freedom to talk, focusing on the "Why?" to hopefully tie that in to each person's motivation to take that job since our "motive" is a big theme this week. Try to keep it positive!

OPEN IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that we are blessed to live in a place where we have options and the ability to work using the skills and talents You have blessed us with, unlike many other places around the world. Lord, we pray that You would open our eyes to see our own motives for why we work and the kind of work we do, and help us to choose right, and to do our work with excellence so as to glorify You and serve others. In Jesus' name. 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

God is interested in everything about us, including our work-life. He desires to give meaning to our work-life too. Because of sin, we toil; and even though there will be fruitfulness if we follow the Lord, we will encounter “thorns and thistles.” If we view our work, whatever it is, as an opportunity to glorify God and serve others, and work selflessly for God to glorify Him in whatever work we do, we will be fruitful and grow toward our destiny.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. READ GENESIS 3:17-19.

- a. One of the very first pictures we have of “work” in these verses isn’t a pleasant one. Do you think the “painful toil” of work is more severe physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually?
- b. Is it possible to “walk away from God” in the midst of one’s work?

Encourage members to step back from griping, instead to ask others which aspect of work they consider deepest toil. Some in the group may do backbreaking physical work, while others sit at a computer all day - but each may “toil” in their own way. As to walking away from God in our work, we all can do that when we become selfish, prideful, or place the value of people on what work we or they do.

2. READ ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13 AND 22.

- a. Describe what led you to your current or latest work, why you chose it and, based on this week’s message, how you can use it to glorify God.
- b. In what ways can you use your work for ministry?

We all have a story, encourage sharing - maybe even by starting yourself. Even a job that doesn’t directly deal with people can glorify God when you are using your talents and gifts for excellence. We should all consider are we working solely to put bread on the table, or for prestige - or even to buy new things? Or is our motive to help others - whether customers or co-workers, and glorify God in what we say and do at work? Our motive is the key.

3. READ ECCLESIASTES 4:4.

- a. What kind of response do you give when someone asks, “what sort of work do you do?”
- b. What are your thoughts about C.S. Lewis’ comment that, “...pride is essentially competitive, it is competitive by its nature...pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others.”

We sometimes reveal our hearts when asked what sort of work we do; possibly puffing up with pride, or conversely being self-denigrating because we do what some consider menial or unimportant work. If we make God the object and center of work, no matter high profile or lowly, we can glorify God through it. The choice we each make about whom we serve is critically important! Lewis notes that pride is what made Satan fall - possibly the greatest sin.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

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

- Although sin corrupted the world, including work, we can redeem our work by working to glorify God in whatever we do.
- Why do you do the work you do, and whom do you do it for?

Discerning our own motives for work, what we do, how much we do it, and whom we do it for, can help us find satisfaction in our work and keep us from trying to get the things we should get from Jesus through our work; such as our identity, our meaning in life, our worth, etc.

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- Have you ever asked God to intervene in your attitude or motives relating to work?

RESPOND

- Esther took a big risk - risking her life - for others. Consider stretching out - ektenos - to help others in the course of your work.

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

Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves."

COMMENTARY

For further commentary visit:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/ecclesiastes/passage/?Q=ecclesiastes+3:12-13>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/ecclesiastes-4-4.html>