

Water of Life Community Church

YOUR WORLD YOUR WORK YOUR DESTINY

WEEK 4

ISAIAH 58:3, 6-7; COLOSSIANS 3:23; EPHESIANS 1:17

LEADER NOTES

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

ICE BREAKER

- Can you recall a time when you were faced with a tough decision to act with integrity and honesty? If you feel comfortable, share with your small group.
- Who was the best boss you ever had, and why? Share with your group.

Integrity in the workplace may be a rarity, but today we will learn what God expects of believers in the workplace. Some of us may think that there is a separate set of rules when it comes to work, but God has another idea.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Father God, thank You that Your Word gives us wisdom to live by every day. We are grateful that You sent Your Holy Spirit to impart that wisdom to us to help us become more like You. Bless us as we read Your Word this day and help us hide it in our hearts. 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

The gospel, or Good News, is for our whole life. God wants to give meaning to all our life...including work...the success and the failure. How does Jesus redeem work? We need to see our work as God sees it, by having a Christian worldview, doing our work with excellence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. READ ISAIAH 58:3, 6-7.

- a. Do these verses challenge you? When everything in this world tells us we can just think about ourselves and do what we want, these verses tell us something different. What do you think?
- b. As a practicing believer in Jesus, is it enough to simply do what is legal? Why or why not?

We are called as Christians to be honest, compassionate and generous, not because these are rewarding but because they are right. Sometimes there will be a cost to do the honest, right thing. It will be uncomfortable and may cost you your job. Our faith gives us a foundation to stand with integrity even if it involves great sacrifice.

- c. Colossians 3:23 is a short, but powerful verse. Can you do this? Why or why not?
- d. Can you name a time when you had to make a choice to work with all your heart, "as working for the Lord" when it was almost impossible to do? How did you do it?

This verse means being honest, transparent, faithful and trustworthy. Believers have a built-in compass that enables us to make course corrections. That compass is the Holy Spirit. We are called into the light to live in the light, not the darkness. We hide in the darkness, and we die there.

2. READ EPHESIANS 1:17.

- a. How is the Holy Spirit described in this verse? What does that mean to you?
- b. Colossians 1:9 says the Holy Spirit gives wisdom. How does that change your thoughts about your work?

The Holy Spirit brings the Word to life in everyday situations. He reminds us that Jesus called us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. This sets us apart because it is so foreign to the world around us. Love takes the supreme place in our hearts; not money, not accomplishments, not acclaim, not power, not even “causes” or our own identity.

- c. **Ephesians 6:5-9 speaks to those who were working under masters. It was also speaking to masters to honor their slaves. What???** This tells us that we should do this because God is watching, not others. If this was written about slaves and masters, does this apply to employers and employees? Do you think so even if your workplace is not a Christian workplace or a ministry?
- d. **What is the difference between secular work and sacred work? How should you treat your workplace?**

If you are struggling at work, under a boss who is unjust, remember...Jesus has got this. He cares and He sees you. If you are a boss, and you are not godly, repent and turn your heart and destiny over to Jesus. As Paul said, honor those who work for you and live in fear/awe and respect of the one watching all you do...God.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

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

- **How do you need to change your thoughts about work in light of what you have learned today?**
- **If you are a boss, how can you begin to honor the employees who serve you?**

It is never enough to just hear the Word of God, we must honor it too. Begin today to implement honor and respect in the workplace even if the sacrifice is great, because it is the right thing to do.

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- **Doing the right thing is not always easy, but it is what God expects us to do.**

RESPOND

- What can you do today to begin changing how you now view 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

Ephesians 1:17, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

COMMENTARY

For further commentary visit:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/isaiah/58-3.html>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/colossians/3-24.htmlx>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nlt/ephesians/1-17.html>