

WALKING IT OUT – WEEK 6 – WORK

Defining work (as a spiritual discipline)

Work can be (and should be) a wonderful act of worship for those who believe. No matter what we do for a living – sweeping the streets, running a corporation, or the work of a stay-at-home mom – our job is more than a job. This means whatever we do, we do it with enthusiasm, for the glory of God! It's our attitude that says, "God I'm doing it as if I'm doing it for you" that makes the difference. For instance, let's say you make beds in a hotel; you are probably going to make them nicer if you think, 'I'm doing this as if Jesus were going to sleep in this bed'. And you have an opportunity to pray for those who might sleep in that bed that evening!

Devotional for work....

Only 3% of people who have asked Jesus to be Lord of their life are called to full time vocational Ministry. Yet often, we see our work responsibilities as drudgery or perhaps only as a means to give us the ability to "Minister" in the evenings or on weekends. While we may have a job that is difficult, boring, or just drudgery, God has a purpose for us being there.....probably several purposes.

Consider the story of Joseph, from sold into slavery to being Pharaoh's right hand man. Determined not to feel sorry for himself, he committed to do his best wherever he was placed. God used Joseph's faithfulness, not just for Joseph's benefit, but for all of God's chosen people.

Whatever position God finds us in, He intends to use us for His glory, as a way to care for ourselves and ultimately others.

Ephesians 4:28

Questions to talk about at home and with your small group

- 1) What would your dream job be?
- 2) What are the purposes of work?
- 3) What ways can God use you in your current "work" environment?
- 4) How can you make "work" and act of worship?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I pray you would help me to trust where you have placed me to work, wherever that may be. Help me to remember that ultimately, I work for you and I want to honor you in all that I do. As I work, I trust you will continue to lead me and guide me each day, showing me when new doors are opening. Lord, let me never forget that my work and the fruits of it are not just to take care of myself and my family, but to benefit others as well. Give me a generous heart to advance your Kingdom! In the name of Jesus and for Your sake, Amen.

Additional verses for study

*Psalm 90:17; Proverbs 12:11,24; 16:3; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 7:21-24; **Colossians 3:23-24**; Ephesians 6:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Weekly challenge

Work on a project as a family. Divide the job into smaller pieces so everyone has a role to play. This can be something around the house, or even a service project to help someone else!

If you have children

Teach your children the importance of work. Even a 2-3 year old can help with chores around the house – there are suggestions on the "chore list" page. Once they complete a job, check the corresponding box and give them a small reward, like a sticker or an extra 15 minutes of playtime.

Kids' activities

"Kid's Chore Sheet" with age appropriate household jobs, activity page about work and occupations.

