

GOOD WORK

Good Work: Week One—Work Ethic

Connect: Tell a story that best describes the way you learned how to think about work—maybe a situation with your parents, a mentor, etc. How does that thinking affect your work today?

Grow:

1. When you think of “good work” what do you think of? List some examples.
2. **Read Genesis 2:1-2,15, 3:17-19.** What is the significance of the fact that work existed before sin entered the world? Is work a curse or a gift?
3. Work is God's good idea. It is a way we provide for ourselves and others and it is a way we worship God, but it has been made really difficult because of sin. Talk about how you've seen both the "good" and the "difficult" side of work in your life. What do you notice about your approach to work as a result?
4. **Read Colossians 3:23.** How you work and why you work is far more valuable than “what” the work is. Do you ever think that only certain work is “for the Lord”? How does excellent work, whatever it is, reflect God’s excellence?
5. What kind of a carpenter do you think Jesus was? What kind of *Yelp* reviews would He have received? What kind of work do you think Jesus did?
6. We tend to think of worship as something we do on Sundays and work as something we do Monday through Friday. How does God intend for our work and worship to overlap?
7. How does the work that takes up most of your day give you chances to point to the goodness and grace of God? How could you turn a few of the things you do at work into ways to love God and love your neighbor?
8. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** We aren’t saved by our good work. We are saved *by* Jesus’ good work! And we are saved *for* good works. What does that mean? Why is it significant?

Pray: Pray that our vision for good work will get bigger and that we’ll see it’s application in every aspect of our work. Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart, as though you are working for the Lord and not for people. Pray that we will see each small part of our day as an opportunity to do good work for the glory of God!

Next: Keep Colossians 3:23 in the front of your mind this week as you do the work of raising kids, building things, organizing events, leading co-workers, etc. Consider printing it out and keeping it somewhere in your line of sight during the workday. Write out some ideas of how you can love God and your neighbors through your work.