



EQUIP

study guide



WORK

THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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Main Objective:

To connect our ordinary, everyday labors to our walk of faith with God and to the expansion of his kingdom

Areas of Growth:

- **Conviction:** growth in understanding that the work we do, how we do it, and why we do it matters to God and is used by him
- **Competence:** growth in striving for excellence in our daily work to bring glory to the God who calls us and to benefit our neighbors by “improving our corner of the world”
- **Character:** growth in carrying out our various callings with faithfulness as an avenue for loving God and loving our neighbors more fully and intentionally

PREFACE

1. What previous jobs have you held? What did you like and not like about your previous jobs?
2. What is/are currently the main area(s) of your daily work or productivity? What are some things you enjoy about your work? What do you find most difficult or unpleasant?
3. Describe your dream job. How close is your current work to that dream?

CHAPTER 1: ROAD MAP TO THE BIG IDEAS

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter One and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. Do you tend to be an idealist, materialist, or adventurer (see pp. 17-18)?
3. In your opinion, what factors have shaped our current culture's attitudes about work the most? Have those factors led to a healthy or unhealthy view of work? Also, what factors have shaped your attitudes about work the most and have those factors led to a healthy or unhealthy view?

Memory Work:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ~ Genesis 2:15

CHAPTER 2: WORK, GOOD WORK, AND THE BEST WORK

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Two and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. What gifts, talents, and skills do you possess? What regular opportunities do you have to use your gifts, talents, and skills to bless others?
3. Are you glad or ashamed to tell people what you do? What harm would come if no one performed your work?

Memory Work

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ~ Ephesians 4:28

CHAPTER 3: WORK, CREATED AND FALLEN

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Three and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. How are the realities of the fall manifested at your current job or in your current labors? How do you react to and cope with those realities?
3. Would your main area(s) of work exist if there was no sin? How can work that exists because of sin be godly and valuable?

Memory Work

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

~ Galatians 6:9-10

CHAPTER 4: WORK REDEEMED

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Four and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. What are some ways your work allows you to demonstrate love to others?
3. What are the similarities and differences between the pragmatist, the witness, and the prince (pp. 48-51)? Which one do you think most reflects the Christian in his or her work and why?

Memory Work

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ~ Colossians 3:23-24

CHAPTER 5: CALLING AND GIFTING

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapters Five and Six and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. Do you view your current work (or station in life) as a calling? Why or why not?
3. What measure of fulfillment do you experience from your current area(s) of labor? If you are currently experiencing little fulfillment in your work, how can you discern rightly if God is calling you to something else?

Memory Work

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. ~ Proverbs 16:3

CHAPTER 6: FAITHFULNESS AT WORK

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Seven and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. How would you describe what faithfulness entails in your area(s) of work? What challenges to faithfulness do you personally encounter in your work? Share with the others in your group how they can encourage and pray for you.
3. Do you sometimes struggle to see the value in your work? If so, where do you find hope and encouragement to remain faithful?

Memory Work

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

~ Matthew 25:21

CHAPTER 7: WORK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Seven and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. What does your work contribute to make the world better? What difference does it make?
3. What callings besides your work do you have in life? Why is it important to recognize that we have other callings besides work?

Memory Work

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ~ Ecclesiastes 5:18

CHAPTER 8: WORK, REST, AND RHYTHMS OF LIFE

1. What thing(s) stood out to you the most in Chapter Seven and why? Was there something you found particularly encouraging or challenging? Was there anything you questioned or disagreed with?
2. Are you more tempted to overwork or underwork? How does the Bible teach us to combat both?
3. Do you believe our culture has and encourages a healthy balance of work and rest? Why or not? What are some practices you can (or do) adopt to faithfully rest as an expression of trust in our God who provides – and to help others rest as well?

Memory Work

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

~ Exodus 20:8-11

CHAPTER 9: MEANINGFUL WORK, REVISITED

1. What are your main takeaways from the book and from your group discussions?
2. Do you believe it is important for the world to have disciples of Jesus in every honest calling and area of work (p. 107)? Do you believe there are areas of labor Christians should avoid? If so, how can we know which ones?
3. Do you have any ideas for a faith and work project? If so, share it with the group for support and feedback

Memory Work

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. ~ Psalm 90:17

