

RELATIONSHIP PLAYBOOK

ECHO.CHURCH

TALK IT OVER

9 TO 5... FOR WHAT? WHEN WORK & FAITH COLLIDE

Hi Group Leaders! It may be helpful to say to your group... Let's consider a person's work/job to be whatever they do during the bulk of their day. This may be school, caring for children, looking for a job, etc.



ICE BREAKER

- What do you love most about your job/work?
- What would be your dream job scenario?



READ

Genesis 1:27-29 (NLT)

'So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. '



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. What do you think God meant when he told us to govern and reign over the earth?
2. Why and how is it hard to "stand in for God" while doing your work? (Tim Keller quote: "We are called to stand in for God here in the world, exercising stewardship over the rest of creation in his place as his vice-regents. We share in doing things that God has done in creation - bringing order out of chaos, creatively building a civilization out of the material of physical and human nature, caring for all that God has made." Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor).

3. How connected is YOUR faith with YOUR work?
4. What do you find to be sacred about your job?



READ

Genesis 3:16-19 (NLT)

'Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you. " And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.'"



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. God wanted to provide abundantly for Adam and Eve - all they had to do for food was pick the low-hanging fruit and enjoy! How did Adam and Eve's disobedience result in pain and make their life harder? How does our disobedience sometimes make our work-life harder?
2. What is your relationship with your work -- Is it more often: a) an idol, b) a necessary evil, or c) a sacred gift? Why and How?
3. Is there anything that consistently tries to move into first place in your life?
4. How much of your worth comes from your work?
5. How is your work a unique opportunity to be the hands and feet of God?
6. How can you shift your perspective on the most difficult part of your work so it becomes more sacred? How can you: 1) Set boundaries? 2) See work through the lens of gratitude? 3) Bless others and help the flourishing of humanity through your work?



READ

Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

'Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.'



PRAYER

Share prayer requests and pray

Father, we thank you for the work that you have given each of us to do. Help us to see our daily work (and everything we do) as something that we do for you. Show us how to stand in for you and represent you well to those in our lives. Help us to keep our work in proper perspective so that it doesn't consume or frustrate us. Give us what we need to work in a way that pleases you and points people to you. Please God give us more joy each day as we strive to make the most of our opportunities to bless others and make the world a better place. In Jesus name, Amen.
