



KINGDOM ON THE JOB

A SIX-WEEK COURSE ON NAVIGATING THE MODERN WORKPLACE

We're facing huge new challenges in our workplaces today. Over 70% of workers feel disconnected when they're at work, or outright hate their jobs.

How do we find God in the modern workplace? How can we do our daily work as a calling from the Lord? How do we work with integrity? How do we serve as peacemakers and representatives of Christ in a pluralistic world?

This lesson plan is ideal if people in your group...

- Feel disconnected or discouraged in their daily work
- Want to know how their job serves a higher purpose
- Face difficult challenges in the workplace

Topics we will discuss include...

1. Beyond Work/Life Balance
2. Working in Light of the Gospel
3. Wrestling with God
4. Transforming Our Work
5. Created Male and Female, for Work
6. Working for Reconciliation



WEEK 1: BEYOND WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Gather & Open with Prayer

Opening Discussion (5 minutes)

We're all very busy! We have too many things to do and not enough time to do them. What are some of the things you struggle to fit into your days?

How do our lives feel when we can't fit in everything we need to and want to?

What are some things you've tried to help you cope better with the demands on your time?

Introduce Video:

In this video, history professor Chris Armstrong describes how Christians have coped with the demands of work and rest by centering their lives on love for God and neighbor.

Watch Video:

Chris Armstrong, *Vocation? Whatever!* Oikonomia Network (17 minutes) tiu.edu/onthejob1

Discussion (20 minutes)

Group leader selects questions to focus on.

Think about all your daily activities—in your home, job, church, recreation, rest and so on. How might these tasks be a calling from God to love God and neighbor? Talk about specific examples in as many areas of life as you can (don't leave out jobs, recreation or rest!).

How does it change the way you think about these tasks and rests if all of them are a calling from God, not just some of them? How about weekly rest on Sunday?

If all these things are a calling from God, how might that help you set priorities for how you use your time?

What are some ways we run away and hide from the calling to love God and neighbor in all our daily tasks?

How do some of these ways of hiding from our calling come out of a "super spirituality" that dwells so much on how God loves us that we neglect to work diligently to serve our neighbors? Or "the temptation of activism" where we throw ourselves too much into our work and lose sight of God and the good news of Jesus, our only real hope?

What are some ways we can structure our lives so we make sure we have time both to spend quiet time with God and to serve the people around us diligently?

Read Passage: Colossians 3:12-25

Discussion (10 minutes)

It can be overwhelming to think about how hard it is to follow the calling in this passage! Look back at the passage. What are some of the hardest things it asks us to do?

What do we see in this passage that promises us God will help us to follow his calling? (For example, you might look at verses 12, 15, 16 and 24. What do they promise?)

What do we see in this passage that suggests this isn't about obeying a long list of rules, it's about becoming a new kind of person? (For example, you might look at verses 12, 14-15, 17 and 23. What do they call us to do—or be?)

Integration Point:

This week, set aside a quiet time to think about how God has shown his love for you, and ask how you can better show his love to others.

Close with Prayer