



Sermon Discussion Guide

Working Alongside Jesus for the Good of the World - Christian Lindbeck

February 14, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

Question writers: if you would like to use this space to share a creative idea about an activity small groups could do together, or a way to make their conversation engaging, add it here. If you don't have one, feel free to delete this section.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- 1. Snow makes work for us all doesn't it? Whether shoveling, keeping our house warm, driving, worrying. Do you like the snow? Does it make you feel restful and cozy or worried and tired of work?
- 2. Has this series made you approach your work and rest in a different way? How?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss **what the text is saying**.
 - **Matthew 5:13-16**
 - **Matthew 25:14-30**
 - **Jeremiah 29:4-7**
 - **Job 29:11-17**
 - **Revelation 21:9 - 22:5**
- 3. These texts bring our work into correct alignment with Jesus' mission on Earth and God's redeeming mission to the world. Brainstorm a list of Biblical characters who had a variety of talents that were used for the Kingdom work. Acts is a great place to start. Jesus' disciples.
- 4. Discuss the highlighted scriptures above in relationship with God's mission in the world on a broad scale. Pick a single section of scripture to focus on. How does it relate to Jesus' ministry?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.



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5. If money, time, travel weren't an issue, what needs exist in our church, community, city, etc... that should be met. How can we find ways in?
6. How do God's people both "do everything unto the Lord" wherever God has placed us and maintain a posture of obedient and hopeful expectation of God's calling? Is there a need we are being called to meet where we are... cookies to a neighbor, compassion to a co-worker? Is there a need we are being called to meet that God is calling us to... building wells in Africa, teaching English in Croatia?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- 7. If our work is to participate with Jesus for the good of the world, how are you doing that? How does your vocation, volunteering, time investment benefit the world or more specifically our city. Some of us don't feel like we have a specific vocation... think of how you spend your days. What are you participating in, using your time doing, how can that time be used to bring light to darkness? I.e. motherhood, homeschooling, visiting neighbors, conversing with people in real life or online, creating art, writing, shoveling sidewalks.
 - a. If there is a member of your small group who is having trouble seeing the kingdom work in their day to day, spend time encouraging or casting vision with them.
- 8. Has there been a time in your life or career when you felt God pulling on your heart to use your talents and/or time in a specific way?. (I.E. Mission trips, getting out of unhealthy relationships, volunteering, donating time or money to someone else). How did you, how will you, how should we respond?



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Time of Prayer