

Work Matters Discussion Questions

1.31.16

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What was your first job?
2. What gives meaning to work?

Background

In Genesis 1 and 2 after each episode in the Creation narrative we are told that the results are good. Then after creating man and woman God put them in the Garden and gave them the direction to work and care for it. These two pieces give us a clear picture of the importance God places on work and that it is not until after the fall work becomes toil and brings a negative cloud with it. As you prepare to look at Isaiah 65 try and think of work in terms of what it will look like in a restored to perfection earth and that will help give a new perspective on how we can approach work in our world today.

Read Genesis 2:2 – 3, 15; 3:17 – 19; Isaiah 65:17-25

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. Describe what work God does?
2. Why is working part of reflecting God's Image?
3. How does sin affect our experience of work?
4. What is supposed to be the response to what God recreates according to Isaiah 65:18 and 19?
5. What does Isaiah 65:22 and 23 have to say about work in the reality of the renewed Creation?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. If work is a good thing, why do you think so many people try to avoid it?
2. Describe what the new heavens and the new earth would look like in Bellingham.
3. Is it possible to think differently about work? What would it take for you to approach your work differently?
4. How does God give dignity to work?
5. How does He put work in proper perspective?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How would your life be different if you approached work as though you were living in the reality described in Genesis and Isaiah?

2. What sort of work do you think you will be doing when the new heavens and new earth described in Isaiah 65 become the reality we live in?
3. Why do you think God puts an emphasis on work and calls us to do it with him?
4. How is God wanting you to see your work differently?
5. Where does God want to speak hope to you regarding work?

Closing

As you close spend time praying with one another to see your work as flowing out of you relationship with Jesus. Find ways to build others up and be Jesus wherever you work.

Reminder: Matter matters to God because everything he has made was good and one day he will renew this world to its Eden-like perfection. As the rulers put here to fill and take care of this world we must live reintegrated lives and not only look to a future where we escape this place. We must accept the reality of the “already but not yet” in which we find ourselves.