

# Being a Disciple at Work

## Session 1 : My Discipleship and Work

### Members' Notes

- 7.30pm**      **Welcome & Prayer & module overview**
- Exploring together our experiences of Work & Discipleship in the light of Biblical perspectives, God's big picture, & the nature of the gathered / dispersed church;
  - Exploring the nature, ethics, purpose & relationships within our places of work;
  - Developing appropriate responses to these through prayer & action;
  - Considering ways our churches can develop their support to members in their discipleship through work
- 7.45**            **Opening activity**  
Sharing briefly: who we are; our working experience; our interests; hopes for the course.  
Discussion point: To what extent are we what we do?
- 8.00**            **Reflecting on some comments on work**
- What is our experience?**  
Browsing some statements about work & faith; choosing 1 or 2 that speak to you about work or how you would like it to be. Sharing together.
- 8.25**            **Exploring our experience**  
Brainstorming together on different flipchart sheets:
- most enjoyable aspects of my work
  - most frustrating aspects of my work
  - ways in which my work challenges my faith
  - ways in which my faith challenges my work
- 8.45**            **Reflecting on some Christian perspectives on work**  
Relating our experience to:  
\* God's big picture in the Gospel message  
\* the nature of the Church
- 9.00**            **Bible study** in pairs / small groups.  
How does this help us to:  
\*value our work as divine/human collaboration?  
\*think Christianly about work & stewardship?  
\* find appropriate responses to the world & community?  
\* think about our discipleship & mission?
- 9.20**            **Worship (see p2.)**

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

*Think about the following questions during the coming week:*

**If we are Christ's ambassadors in the world, where is my embassy?  
How will I be serving God in my work this month?  
Is there *one* thing I could pray about this week for my workplace?**

### **9.20            Worship**

#### Gathering prayer :

Work is a means of loving God by serving human needs.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the life you have called each one of us into.—for our homes and families, our church, our places of work and the people we come into contact with each day. We surrender to you the joys and sorrows, opportunities and disappointments of all those experiences. We pray that through them you would help us to grow closer to you, closer to each other and day by day become the disciples you want us to be. We ask this for your glory and in Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Bible reading :

Colossians 3:22—4:1 Working as for the Lord

#### Prayers (open or led)

Based on the flipchart notes for the Local Picture.

Concluding with **the Lord's Prayer**

#### Our offering :

The group is invited to write on small pieces of paper anything relating to work/faith/relationships/world that they would like to bring to God for his help.

These may be folded and placed at the foot of the cross or in the bowl of water for His cleansing.

Everyone is invited to light a candle, representing Christ's new light and hope in the situation. Music may be played during this time.

When everyone has had the opportunity to make an offering & light a candle, conclude with :

#### The Grace

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore, Amen.**

Go in peace to love & serve the Lord—**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

### **Follow-up resources for Session 1.**

#### Books :

Mark Greene	Thank God It's Monday
Brother Lawrence	Practising the Presence of God
Joel Edwards	Hope, Respect & Trust
John Stott	New Issues Facing Christians Today

#### Websites :

[www.christiansatwork.org.uk](http://www.christiansatwork.org.uk)  
[www.icf-online.org](http://www.icf-online.org)

#### Bible passages :

In addition to ones already given in the session notes,

Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:15	Community & the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem
Jeremiah 1:4-9	The calling & empowering of Jeremiah
John 13:1-17	Jesus washes the disciples' feet