

Being a Disciple at Work

Session 2. Discipleship and the Workplace

Members' Notes

7.30 Welcome and Prayer

Brief re-cap of previous session

7.40 Opening activity

What or where is my place of work?

Sharing in pairs. Each person feeds back to the whole group 3 things their partner has said about their place of work.

7.50 What is the value or significance of work?

* **instrumental value** through paid work, people receive money which allows them to provide for themselves and for others

* **intrinsic value** work is a context in which we can use the gifts and skills God has created us to use . . . we may feel pleasure not just in the results but also in the process

* **strategic value** work can provide opportunities for ministry and evangelism

8.00 How does this relate to God?

How do these values relate to what we know about God's nature, character and methods? Let's put some of these on the flipchart.

8.20 Bible study

What can we learn from the Bible about God's vision and mission in relation to work?

Genesis 1 – 2 God is creative and what he creates is good and blessed by him
Mankind in dominion over animal and plant world

Isaiah 65:17-end A new heavens and a new earth, happiness and joy, no more weeping. People will live in their own homes and eat the fruit of their own vineyard, and have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. They will not work in vain – they and their children will be blessed by the Lord, who will answer their prayers.

Revelation 21-22 A new heaven and a new earth, and a holy city. God living amongst his people. He is Alpha and Omega. Jesus is coming soon.

Ephesians 4:11-13 Jesus gives gifts to the church. The church has responsibility to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. They will grow in unity of faith and knowledge of Jesus, mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.

Romans 8:21 The redeeming of the whole created order, which becomes whole again.

Galatians 5:19-23 Contrasts the outcomes of evil with the fruit of the Spirit.

In these passages we have God's vision for society, for the church and for individuals – a community of human beings in loving and harmonious relationships with God and with each other.

We also see the NOW and NOT YET of the Kingdom.

8.30 The values, purpose and pressures of our current place of work

Sharing in pairs, noting keywords, then feeding back to whole group.

** What are the guiding values and 'mission purpose' of your current workplace or situation?*

** How are these experienced in practice for those involved?*

** What are the pressures on your company/school/home/organisation etc?*

9.00 A Reflective and Practical spiral

We are a gift to the workplace and the workplace is a gift to us.

How can we approach this in a reflective and practical way?

9.20 Worship

Reading : Genesis 10:8-12 :Nimrod

Short time of Reflection

What is the value of your work?

How might you be a mighty worker before the Lord?

Prayers

We read the three prayers, pausing for a short time of reflection between each one.

Final reading : Colossians 3:23-24

Our sending out :

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen

DURING THE WEEK

You may like to:

- apply the Spiral to an issue facing you in your work or workplace
- reflect further on the inter-relationship between ourselves and the workplace – the external and internal values involved – and how we might make decisions. ('Habitus and decision-making' sheet)
- get hold of a copy of your workplace's purpose or mission statement for further reflection