

— weekly —
**STUDY
GUIDE**

WORK MATTERS

WEEK 1 // CHRISTIAN NETWORKING

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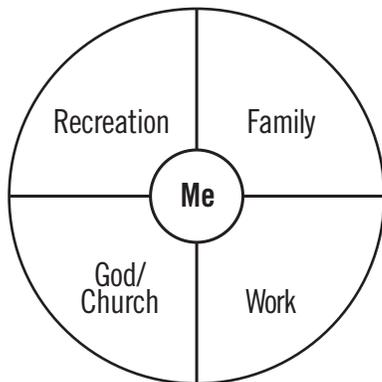
Introduction

For the next 12 weeks we will be examining the “theology of work.” You might be surprised by this, but the Bible actually has a lot to say about our careers. This series will show you how to approach “work” in a way that honors God, blesses the world around you, and leads to a greater sense of peace and contentment.

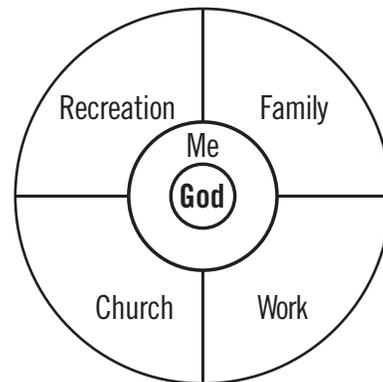
Below you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

Personal Study

The diagrams below represent two distinctly different approaches to the Christian Life.



COMPARTMENTALIZED MODEL



LORDSHIP MODEL

The Compartmentalized Model above views God as one part of your life— like work, family, hobbies, etc. The Lordship Model views God as the center of everything. He is in charge and calls the shots in all areas of your life.

Personal Study Continued...

CONSIDER

- Which diagram best describes your approach to life? Are there areas of your life that you've yet to give God lordship over? Why?/ Why not?

- Would you say that God has lordship over your work life? If not, what would change if He did? If so, how do you see evidence of His leadership in your career?

In today's society you don't have to look very hard to find people in financial crisis. You might be one of them. There are a growing number of individuals out of work or struggling to make ends meet and experts believe it's only going to get worse in the future. The question at hand is: What should we do about it?

READ

Read Galatians 6:6-10 and 1 Timothy 5:1-8 and consider your responses to the questions below.

CONSIDER

- Based on what you just read, what insight does the Bible give us concerning the financial crisis we face today?

- The Apostle Paul encourages believers to "not grow weary in doing good." Why do you think he felt the need to say that? Have you ever felt this way? If so, why?

- The church clearly is called to provide all kinds of help to people in need. Does the church have any role in helping people find good jobs?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes praying for others that are in financial crisis. If you can't think of anyone, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to someone that needs your help and then listen for His guidance.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Give each person in your group one minute to describe their very first job.

READ

Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11 together as a group and discuss the questions below.

DISCUSS

- Why is it tempting to “look grudgingly” on the poor or needy?

- What opportunities do you presently have to “open wide your hand” to someone in need?

Poverty is a complex problem to solve. Read this quote from Robert Lupton’s book Toxic Charity and discuss the questions below.

*Give once and you elicit appreciation;
Give twice and you create anticipation;
Give three times and you create expectation;
Give four times and it becomes entitlement;
Give five times and you establish dependency.*

- In what ways have you seen charity make the problem of poverty worse?

- If we are morally obligated to help the needy, but not all charity is helpful, what are the best solutions?

- The church clearly is called to provide all kinds of help to people in need. What role could the church play in helping people find good jobs?

PRAY

Close your time together in prayer asking for God’s wisdom and direction concerning the poor and needy amongst us.