



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Fall Quarter - Lesson 3 - Week of September 22, 2024

### Lesson: HONORING GOD THROUGH YOUR WORK

**Bible Verses:** Colossians 3:23-24; Genesis 2:15; John 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:10;  
Genesis 3:19; Proverbs 10:4; Ephesians 6:5-9

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What's your favorite type of cuisine?
2. What is on your bucket list?

#### DISCUSSION

"Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance." Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)

Many people in our society view their jobs as a necessary evil. They don't enjoy what they do, but at least it pays the bills! What about you? How would you summarize your feelings about your current occupation or vocation?

**Situation:** In Paul's day, approximately 50 percent of the residents of the Roman Empire were slaves. Although Paul does not directly oppose this practice in his letters, he does remind his readers that people are to treat each other with respect and that everyone has value in the family of Christ, regardless of economic or social position.

Read Colossians 3:22 and Colossians 4:1 (NKJV). These passages show how Christ makes a difference in master-slave relationships and how Christian employers and employees should live and interact.

1. Why do you think Paul and other apostles did not completely condemn slavery?
2. What appeal does Paul make to slaves to obey their masters?
3. What instructions does Paul give to masters on how to treat their slaves?
4. What reasons does Paul give for striving for excellence in your work?
5. In what ways are you pursuing excellence in your work? How does it help to know that ultimately you are working for the Lord and not human bosses?

**Inspiration:** God sanctifies each day. He conducts holy business at all hours and in all places. He makes uncommon the common by turning kitchen sinks into shrines, cafes into convents, and nine-to-five workdays into spiritual adventures. Workdays? Yes, workdays. He ordained your work as something good. Before He gave Adam a wife or a child, even before he gave Adam britches, God gave Adam a job. "Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it (Genesis 2:15 NASB)." Innocence, not indolence, characterized the first family on earth.

God views work worthy of its own engraved commandment. "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest . . . (Exodus 34:21 NASB)." The concept taught in this verse is that we should work and take time to rest.

Your work matters to society, and you are needed! Cities need plumbers. Nations need soldiers. Someone has to raise and care for the children. Whether you log on or lace up for the day, you imitate God. Jesus said, "My father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working (John 5:17)." Your career consumes half of your lifetime. Shouldn't it broadcast God?

1. Do you struggle with viewing work as a spiritual activity? Why or why not?
2. What factors make you unmotivated at work and tempt you to do less than your best?
3. If you were an employer, what practices or policies would you implement to stimulate your workers to do their best?

**Life Lessons:** Unless you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth and have a pile of money in the bank or trust, you will work and perhaps even labor and toil in this life. Every occupation in a fallen world, working alongside fallen co-workers, for fallen bosses, involves frustration and calls for tough choices. We should do our best at work since we work for God. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10

### **5 Ways to Glorify God at Work**

1. Give thanks (Psalm 50:23).
2. Do excellent work (Matthew 5:16).
3. Trust God's promises (Romans 4:20).
4. Share the Gospel and your stuff (2 Corinthians 9:13).
5. Sacrifice your freedoms for the good of others (I Corinthians 10:23-33).

**Devotion:** Lord, thank you for the reminder that our occupations matter to you. Please help us to have a positive impact on those in our workplaces. Your wages are enough.

**Journaling:** How can someone know it's time to seek different employment?

**Prayer Focus:** God, help us have a proper perspective on how you view our work!