

## Christians in the Workplace

### Course Synopsis

#### *The Story of Work – What is the Problem?*

##### **Week 1: Theology of Work**

- Do you realise that God actively engages in Work? He creates, cultivates and cares for His creation. Being created in His image, Mankind was made to participate in and enjoy work too!
- Things changed after the Fall of Man. In Paradise lost, work became and continues to be hard.
- However, there is a day coming in Paradise future when work will be restored to its rightful place. Even so, Christ's redemption enables Christians to approach work in a whole new way; right here, right now."

##### **Week 2: Problem with Work**

- The Preacher in Ecclesiastes says "vanity, all is vanity". In the course of our work, many have asked "where is the meaning in my work?", "why is work so frustrating?"
- We will learn about two traps that we are prone to fall into: (a) Treating work as our IDOL (b) Being IDLE at work.
- We will then learn what is the "antidote" to these two traps: to treat our work as worship to God.

#### *"Our Work as the Redeemed" – What is the Solution to our Problem? How should we work?*

##### **Week 3: Freedom in Christ at Work**

- Freedom in Christ leads us to have a new heart, serve a new master, and seek new rewards.
- We will learn how we can trust God, excel for God and serve others in a new approach towards work.

##### **Week 4: Relationships at Work**

- Do we sometimes lapse into viewing our co-workers as obstacles, competitors, or even instruments? As opposed to people?
- We will learn how to be a good subordinate and colleague: not complaining, happy submission, unfeigned humility
- We will learn how to be a good boss who is empowered by grace and exercises servant-leadership

##### **Week 5: Balance at Work**

- Did you know that Christians are supposed to be "unbalanced" in our approach to work?! Come and learn what that means.
- We will learn what is our "primary calling" and "secondary callings" as Christians, and the implications of that on our work
- We will learn how to prioritise
- Importantly, we will learn what it means to rest in God
- We will learn about practical implementation, e.g. when do we say NO to more work?

### **Week 6: Ethics at Work**

- Do you know that the way you work reflects the kind of God you have?
- We will learn various principles and apply them to a range of case studies

### ***What is God's specific plan for me? Where does God want me to work?***

### **Week 7: Work in Different Stages of Life**

- How do we approach seasons of life when we are studying, retired, or retrenched?
- Do we realise that all work can glory God, not only formal employment, or "spiritual" work?

### **Week 8: Finding the Right Work**

- How can we choose our jobs in a way that helps us to serve and glorify God?
- Do we realise we often invert our priorities, with SELF at the apex of our hierarchy of needs, as opposed to GOD?
- What are the "must-haves" when we seek out a job?
- What are the "nice-to-haves" when we seek out a job?
- Learn some practical steps of guidance for discovering God's will in our lives

### **Week 9: Faithfulness at Work**

- We will learn from the Parable of the Talents about the central idea of "faithfulness"
- We will see how to be freed from thinking that work has no purposes, and at the same time be freed from thinking that work has ultimate purposes
- Do you realise that God evaluates your "work" performance based on faithfulness, not this world's notions of productivity and success?
- Learn practical steps to be found faithful

### **Focus Groups – TBC**

• Depending on the feedback mid-way through the course, we are exploring holding a session where we gather together various communities of practice, to share about common challenges at work, and to provide mutual support. The following list is not exhaustive:

- Medical (Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, Hospital Admin)
- Civil Service & Military
- Entrepreneurs
- Lawyers
- Finance & Management (Accountants, Economists, Banking, Consultants)
- Homemakers
- Retirees
- Students
- Teachers
- Artists (Musicians, Production, Artwork, Photography, Videography)
- Sales
- Operations
- Factory Work