

## Small Group Questions

Week 6 - Where has God positioned me?

At Work & School

October 21-27, 2018

This week our focus is on the question of *where*. Specifically, we want to consider how God has positioned us in our place of employment. If you are not currently employed, it will be helpful to consider your life situation and place of influence (as a stay-at-home parent, caring for grandchildren, volunteering in retirement, etc.), and apply that to the questions below.

### Opening Questions

1. Where do you currently work, and what do you do at your job?
2. How did you come to work at your current place of employment?

### Scripture and Questions

In 1 Corinthians Paul gives instruction to the church as to what is right in Christian living. He addresses several specific issues, including what food is right for Christians to eat. In the Old Testament, there were many laws that regulated the diet of Jews, but the issue of whether Christians should eat food that had been sacrificed to idols had also arisen. Paul addresses this specific issue in the beginning of 1 Corinthians 10, and then moves on to a more general summary. Consider the verses from 1 Corinthians 10 (ESV) below, along with the accompanying questions.

*23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.*

1. What do you think Paul means when he says, "All things are lawful"?
2. What are some things that might be considered *lawful*, but not *helpful* or *building up*?
3. How are these two verses connected? In other words, how does seeking the good of your neighbor over yourself relate to choosing the helpful and building up things?

*31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*

1. What are some of your daily tasks that are difficult for you to imagine doing "to the glory of God"? Are most of these tasks at home or at work?
2. Paul instructs the believers (in verse 32) to give "no offense" to 3 different groups: Jews (those with different religious beliefs), Greeks (non-Christians), and the church (other Christians). Which group is it most difficult for you to give no offense to? Why?
3. What does Paul state as his goal in all things (see verse 33)?

## **Sacred and Secular**

Have someone in your group look up the definitions for the words *sacred* and *secular*, and read them outloud for the group.

1. What are the distinctives between *sacred* and *secular*?
2. What are some places, times, and situations that are usually viewed as *sacred*?
3. What are some places, times, and situations that are usually viewed as *secular*?

As Christians, we are to bring the sacred into the secular in our lives. This happens because we bring the Holy Spirit with us wherever we go. Recall that you heard from a few people this past Sunday who try to intentionally to consider the sacred even as they go about their job/school.

1. Do you see your job or life situation as an opportunity or an inconvenience?
2. What are some small steps that you can take this week to consider the sacred at your job, or to share the hope and healing of Jesus with others you interact with through your occupation?

## **Closing**

### *Option 1*

Take time to pray for one another. Have a couple of people pray for each person in the group, and specifically for their ability to recognize and act on how God has positioned them for a purpose at work.

### *Option 2*

At the end of Sunday's service you saw a video of Pastor Joshua singing the song *Everything is Sacred* by Pat Barrett. Pull up that song and play it for the group. Listen for words and phrases that stand out to you, and share them after the song has played. Close with a time of prayer.